Nation's Farmers Asked To Produce More Next Year

Journal and Guide

1 a General

By THOMAS J. FOLEY

WASHINGTON—(INS)—The Government has asked the nation's farmers to produce more next year than they ever have in history in spite of machinery, labor and fertilizer shortages.

As an incentive, the Department of Agriculture announced that the Commodity Credit Corporation will guarantee farmers support prices for corn, cotton, soybeans, rice, wool, mohair, milk and butterfat.

Sat. 12-8-51

ACTING Secretary of Agriculture Clarence J. McCormick, in announcing the production goals for major spring-planted crops, said:

"The need for agricultural production in 1952, especially feed grains, is the greatest we have ever faced."

Norfolk Va.

He said the goals reflect military preparedness, growing population, rising living standards and foreign aid.

To off-set expected shortages of equipment and labor, McCormick stressed that "every possible measure of efficiency" must be used.

He asked farmers to till about three million more acres than they've ever done before.

* * *

McCORMICK SAID that if the 1952 goals are reached U. S. farm production will be four per cent higher than the record output indicated for this year. It will be half again as much as the pre-war average.

The 1952 support price levels which have been announced have been set at 90 per cent of parity as of the beginning of the marketing year. The support levels and goals for wheat, grain sorgums, barley, oats, rye and flaxseed were announced earlier.

The department said minimum dollars-and-cents levels for each commodity will be announced as soon as possible and well before planting time.

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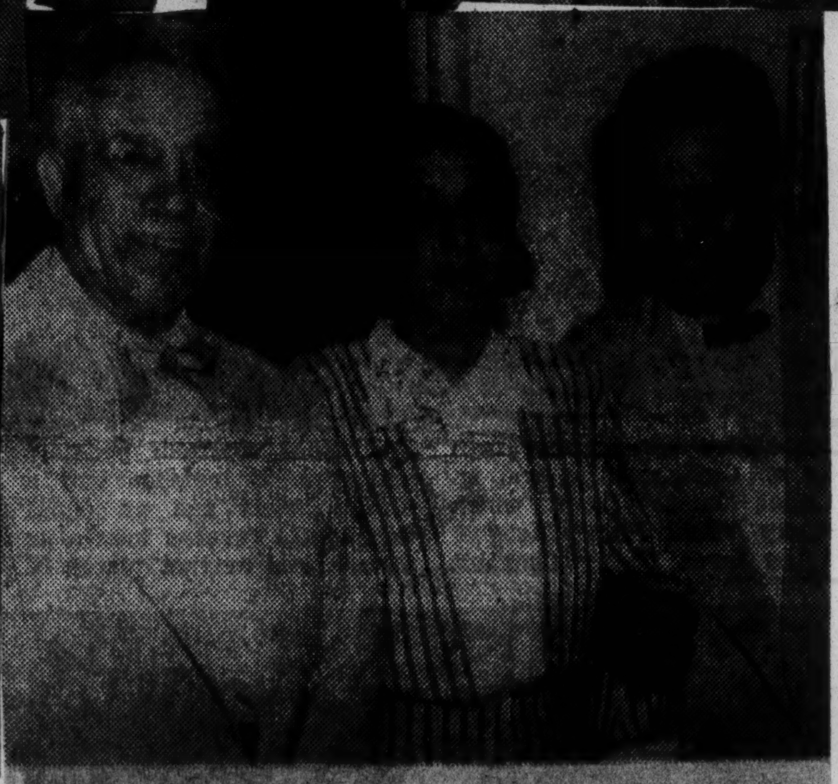
The government asked the following percentage increases in production: corn, nine per cent; sorghum-grain, 20 per cent; potatoes, four per cent; sweet potatoes, 34 per cent; cotton, two per cent; and dry edible beans, seven per cent.

Farmers Mobilize For Defense

NEW $450,000 Agriculture building under construction at Prairie View A and M college is inspected by Charles Browning, Chicago Defender representative; a construction superintendent; G. L. Smith, dean of the School of Agriculture, and Prairie View president, E. B. Evans. Designed for animal industries, building is modern in every respect, and is part of a 4½ million dollar building program at the Texas school.



HOME OF PRESIDENT and Mrs. E. B. Evans (left) is visited by Defender's Charles Browning (right) during Browning's recent Texas visit.

USDA Official, Who Promoted Negro Extension Work, Retires

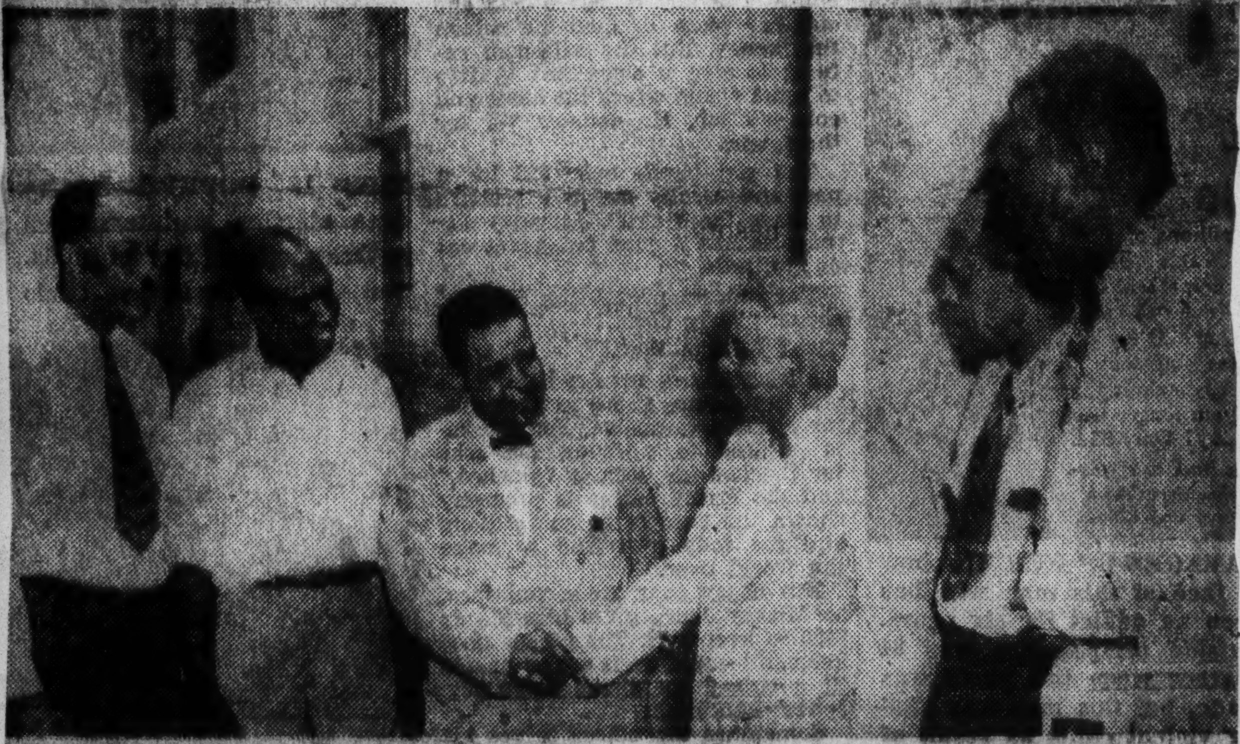
H. H. Williamson, Assistant Director of Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, retired on March 31, after 39 years in Federal and State Agricultural Educational Work.

During his tenure as Director of Extension Work in Texas, 1935-43, Mr. Williamson promoted the development of a more effective program for Negro farmers. A staff of 107 colored farm and home demonstration agents and supervisors now work with the rural Negro families of that State. This is the third largest staff of colored Extension workers in any State, although Texas ranks eighth in the number of Negro farmers.

As Assistant Director of Federal Extension Service, Mr. Williamson encouraged in-service training programs for Colored Extension Workers. During his five years in the Washington office, two summer short courses and three supervisory training meetings were held.

Mr. Williamson, a native of Texas, was graduated from Texas A. & M. in 1911. He served as State 4-H Agent, Assistant Director, Vice Director, and Director of Texas Extension Service. Prior to joining the USDA Staff, he served for two years as Agricultural Relations Adviser of the Office of Price Administration during World War II. Mr. Williamson is returning to Texas to take up residence on his 1,400-acre farm near Texas A. & M. at Bryan.

4-H CLUB REPRESENTATIVES from various Texas communities get together for group work during their recent encampment at Prairie View college.



UPON HIS ARRIVAL, Browning was greeted by, left to right: G. L. Smith, dean of the School of Agriculture; Sherman Briscoe, information specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture; President E. B. Evans and field agents John W. Mitchell and T. M. Campbell.

Leaders From 17 States Meet At Prairie View

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas — Americans today realize that the security of America is not dependent upon any one segment of the population, Charles P. Browning, Chicago Defender representative, told Negro state leaders in a regional conference at Prairie View A and M college last week.

"This security is predicated upon the maximum use of the hearts, the brains, the hands, and skills, and yes, sacrifices of all Americans, of all nationalities, creeds and backgrounds," Browning contended.

He told the state agricultural supervisors that "you are in the mainstream of American life and it leads only to one place — the highway of America's future. You can be some of the greatest road markers on the highway for those young people in the 17 southern states that you cover," he added.

Mr. Browning represented the Chicago Defender and its publisher, John H. Sengstacke at this fourth Southern Regional conference sponsored by the extension service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The conference was directed by Charles A. Sheffield, field agent of the southern states with the assistance of field agents T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell.

The theme of the five-day conference was "The Supervisor and His Job in Meeting Our Responsibilities in Peace, Mobilization, or in war."

Speaking on the role of the state leader in public relations, Browning told the group that everything they do touches upon this very important field. He stressed the fact that the doors of opportunity are opening rapidly throughout America and charged these leaders with responsibility to the young citizens of tomorrow — "Telling them they can make it."

The state leaders were welcomed to Prairie View by President E. B. Evans, and to Texas by Dr. D. W. Williams, assistant chancellor of The Texas A and M system, G. G. Gibson, director of the Extension Service program in Texas also addressed the group in an opening session.

Other speakers included H. C. Sander, director of extension, Louisiana; Dr. R. D. Lewis, director of the Texas agricultural experiment station; C. T. Bauman, extension planning specialist, Oklahoma; Dr. Walter Wilcox, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.; C. C. Hearn, Federal extension service; R. E. Jones, state leader, North Carolina; P. H. Stone, state leader, Georgia; and Charles A. Sheffield, field agent of the southern states and director of the conference.

Committee groups worked on problems of (1) improving supervision, (2) relationship between research and extension, (3) training of extension personnel, (4) assisting low-income families, (5) public relations, (6) improving and expanding 4-H club work, (7) mobilization for defense and (8) developing long-time farm and home programs.

Mrs. Lea Etta Lusk, graduate of Prairie View A and M college and employed as home demonstration agent in Washington county was honored by the group in special ceremonies during the conference. Mrs. Lusk is the recipient of the Superior Service award made by the USDA "for her contribution to the enrichment of rural life."

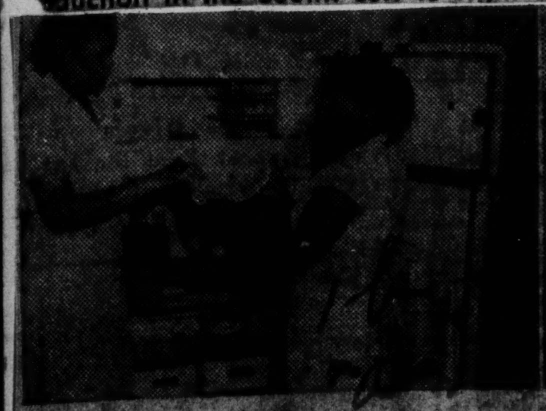
H. H. Williamson, retired Federal Extension service representative made the presentation to Mrs. Lusk. Illness prevented her from attending formal ceremonies held recently in Washington, D. C.

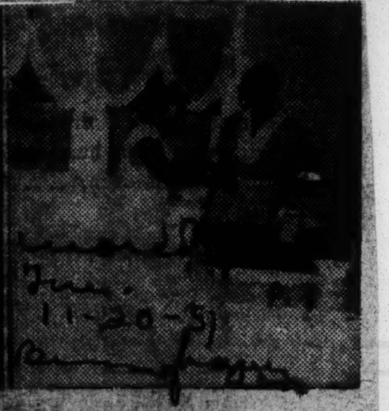
A workshop for extension service workers from the southern states area was also in progress at Prairie View. This special training program is established as a part of the regular summer session at the college.

A group of outstanding instructors from throughout the nation included H. H. Williamson, USDA retired; R. E. Jones, state agent in charge of Negro extension work, A and T College, Greensboro, N. C.; C. C. Hearne, division of field studies and training, Federal Extension service; Sherman Briscoe, information specialist, USDA; C. C. Taylor, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA and Dr. J. L. Matthews, Federal Extension service, Washington D. C.

Local persons in charge of arrangements, social activities and hospitalities were W. C. David and Mrs. Pauline Brown, state extension leaders in Texas and their staffs; G. L. Smith, dean of the school of agricultural, his staff and several other officials of the college.

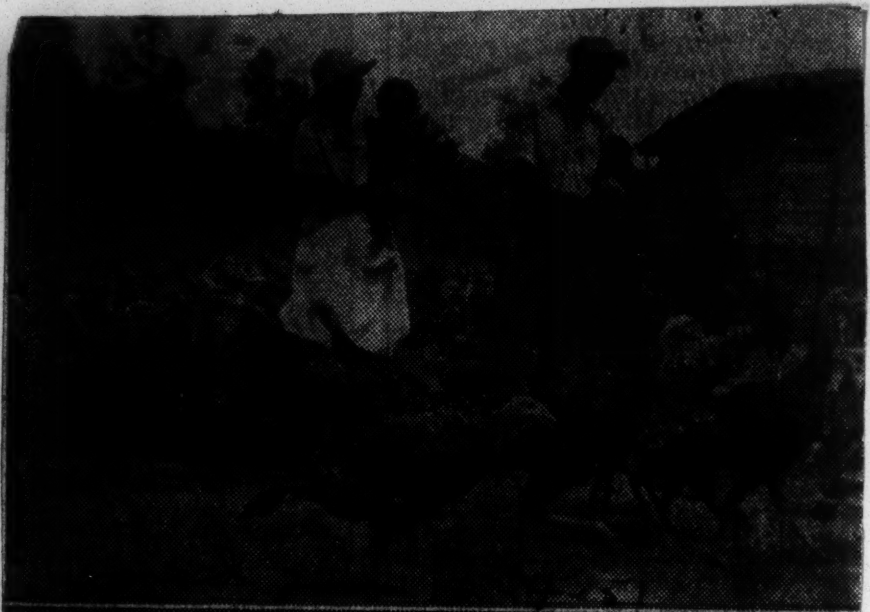
DOUBLE DAIRY SHOCK—The two farm youths—Martin Witt of Livingston, Ala., and William Richardson of Gallion, Ala.—shown at center now have two dairy cows each instead of one. The extra milkers were awarded them as prizes last week at the Uniontown, Ala., Dairy Show which is helping to encourage increased milk production in the South. Left to right are: John L. Grayson, Vocational Agriculture teacher of Livingston; Martin, standing between his champion Guernsey and the Jersey he won; William, between his reserve champion Jersey and the one he was awarded; and Morgan O. Rowser, acting county agent of Marengo county. Mr. Grayson helped Martin raise and groom his cow, and Mr. Rowser assisted William.





A DELICIOUS SUBJECT—ICE CREAM—Seen in the scene (at-left) are Miss L. M. Upshaw, home demonstration agent, Dallas County (left) and Mrs. Mary Hurt, Marion Junction, Rt. 1, checking a pail of ice cream made in Mrs. Hurt's refrigerator. The freezer compartment is large enough to store a supply of food for several weeks. The charming homemaker keeps 15 to 25 fryers stored in the compartment most of the time.

In the large beautiful, roomy kitchen (in right scene), Miss Upshaw is seen giving Mrs. Hurt some points on preparing a new dish. Mrs. Hurt serves her community as home improvement demonstrator. To make the best of the job, as well as enjoy the comforts, she has completely furnished each room, including bath, and has linoleum on all floors. In the farm home are three bedrooms, living room, dining room, bath and kitchen. The lovely house furnishing is complete from door stops to a washing machine.



TWO BIG TURKEY DAYS

Daniel Taylor of Tuskegee, Route 1 is seen in (top) photo above with his wife and two small children among a flock of 400 Broadbreast Bronze turkeys that the family prepared for last Thanksgiving and this coming Christmas holiday markets. Although this is the family's first effort at farming for themselves, a good job has been done with crops and poultry.

The family is seen (in bottom left photo) studying some important facts about handling pullets. They are seen here with a small number of their 800 pullets that are just beginning to lay. The birds are housed in two different units on the farm.

Taylor is seen (in bottom right photo) checking a five-acre plot of grain sorghum that the flock of 400 turkeys will gather for him. The Taylors are tenants, but they are doing well with crops and poultry. They are growing corn, grain sorghum, and grazing crops. There is no cotton on the farm.

Daily World Wed. 6-6-51

SOUTH PLACING INCREASED EMPHASIS ON LIVESTOCK—Typical of the farmers in the South who are placing increased emphasis on the production of livestock and the development of improved pastures is Albert Ross, second from right, of Haynesville, Ala. A few years ago, he devoted most of his 265-acre farm to cotton and corn. Today, he has 70 head of beef cattle and 60 acres of improved pasture. Here, he and his son-in-law, Charley Scott, are discussing pasture improvement with three professional agricultural workers. Left to right are State Leader W. B. Hill, County Agent Roscoe A. Lee, Mr. Scott, Mr. Ross, and Vocational Agriculture Teacher J. T. Haynes. Note the Hereford bull at right—USDA Photo.

10-Day Tour Revealing

Farmers Raising More Cattle, Hogs, 'Ag' Expert Says

By SHERMAN BRISCOE

WASHINGTON — Livestock production by colored farmers in the South is increasing markedly along with the companion development of improved pastures.

I recently returned from a ten-day tour of Alabama, Florida and South Carolina where almost every farmer I visited was either raising cattle or hogs, or both, in addition to some other cash crop. The one-cow-on-a-stake, or pig-in-a-pen era seems to be passing.

The increased production of livestock by colored farmers as a source of income is in line with the emphasis which Extension Service and other agriculture agencies are placing on diversification and soil improvement practices.

NATURAL PASTURES

Livestock and pastures are a natural for the worn out bottoms and eroded hillsides that make up a large part of some of the farms.

Farmers are not neglecting their grass; it's a part of almost every conversation. Fescue, kobe lespedeza, dallisgrass, ryegrass, kudzu, ladino clover, and crimson clover are about as much a part of the farmers' vocabulary as cotton and corn.

And most of the farmers one meets are ready to discuss the merits of various legumes and winter cover crops such as oats, Austrian winter peas, hairy vetch and blue lupine.

SOUCES OF INCOME

When Alabama State Extension leader W. B. Hill and I drove up to the home of Albert Ross of Haynesville, Ala., he said, "I have the prettiest pasture of Johnson grass and White Dutch clover you ever want to see. I am going to turn my cattle in on it in a couple of weeks. It'll cut my feed cost a lot."

Mr. Ross, a World War I veteran, saved up part of his $21-a-month pay and bought eighty acres of worn out cotton land upon his return home. Today, he owns 280 acres and seventy head of beef cattle, including a purebred Hereford bull. He and his son-in-law, Charley Scott, plan to concentrate on cattle and grass

In South Carolina, State Extension Leader E. N. Williams took me to visit Elley C. Fore of Marion who has fifty-four head of purebred Herefords on his 401-acre farm. A few weeks ago, he got $1,800 for five registered yearlings he sold for breeding purposes.

BREEDS CATTLE

Carroll Jones of Epes, Ala., also is breeding Hereford cattle. He operates a $3,400 cotton and cattle farm. On his farm are about 300 brood cows.

In Florida, District Agent J. A. Gresham and I visited two farmers near Marianna who are definitely sold on cattle. Matthew Williams of the Springfield community has sixty head of Hereford cattle and ninety Duroc hogs grazing in pastures on his 451-acre farm.

"When I got married in 1908," said Mr. Williams, "we didn't have a thing but an old mule my brother-in-law gave us as a wedding present." The Williamses now live in a modern stone home that cost $11,000, also, they have a tractor and a $2,500 barn.

The other Florida farmer we visited is Andrew H. Bowers, who owns 265 acres in the Liberty Hill community. He has a modern dairy with twenty-three Guernseys. His milk check averages $20 a day. Also, Mr. Bowers raises hogs, cotton, peanuts, and pine timber for market. He came out of the coal mines in the Birmingham area twenty-five years ago and began sharecropping cotton in Liberty Hill, his birthplace.

In South Carolina, I visited Julian Durant of Manning, who is raising hogs as a sideline for his cotton and tobacco. "Three years ago," said Mr. Durant, "I sold only five hogs; this year I expect to sell seventy-five."

Emphasis on Livestock—

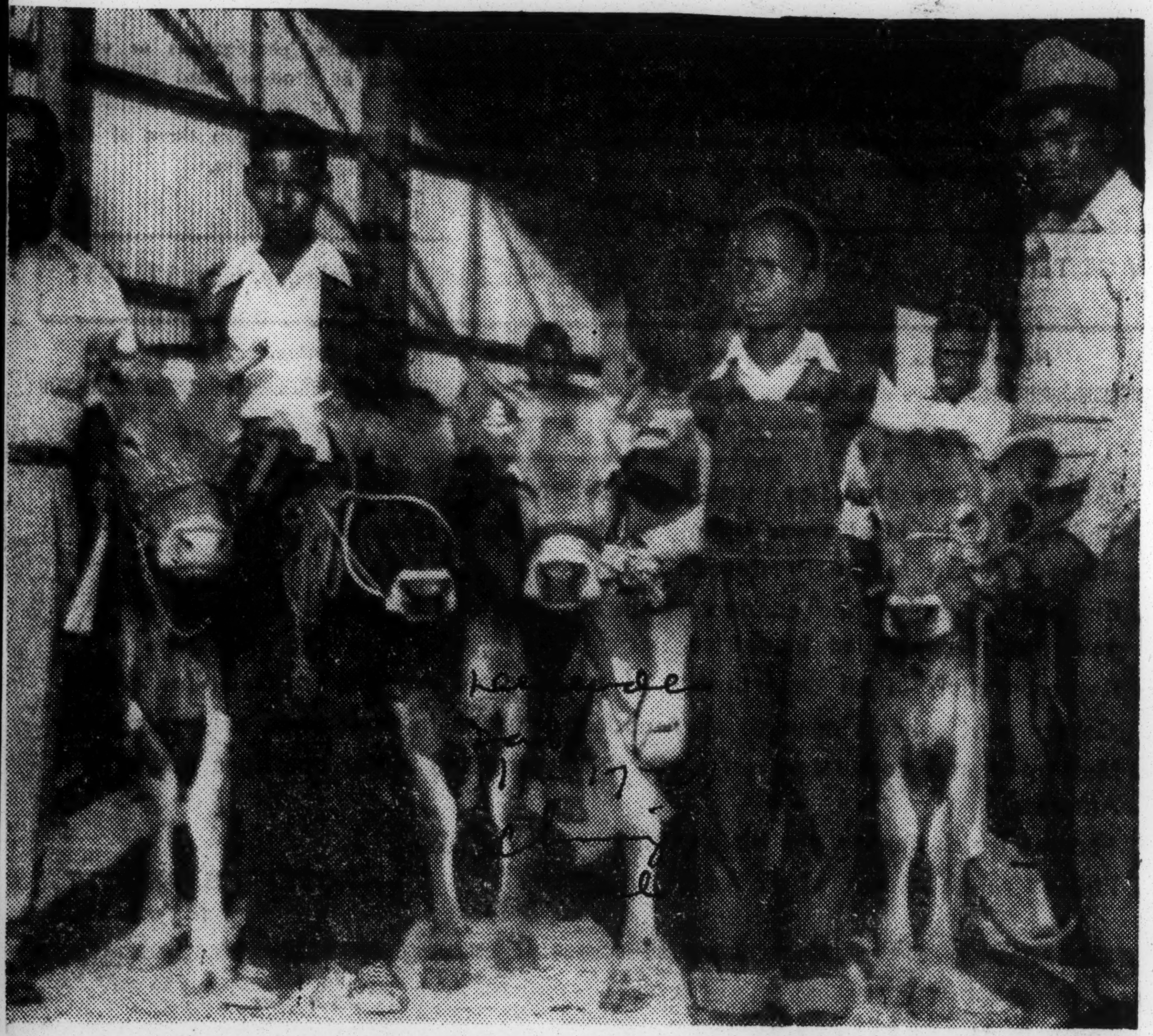
Here, Albert Ross, Haynesville, Ala., and his son-in-law, Charley Scott, are discussing pasture improvement with three professional agricultural workers. Left to right are State Leader W. B. Hill, County Agent Roscoe A. Lee, Mr. Scott, Mr. Ross and Vocational Agriculture Teacher James T. Haynes.—USDA Photo.

MILK SALE . . . . . . A BIG BUSINESS — These days, Grade B dairying is a paying enterprise in Montgomery County, but more farmers need to follow the pattern shown in the scenes above. During the past twelve months Montgomery plants received 350,000 pounds of Grade 'B' milk produced by 200 farm families.

This is the kind of bull (seen in top scene) that farmers should use to improve dairy herds if artificial breeding services are not available. This pure-bred Guernsey belongs to Forest Joseph, of Hope Hull, Rt. 1. When the ordinary farm cow is bred to a bull like this the offspring is a great improvement over the old cow. All good heifer calves should be saved.

Here (in center photo) Mrs. Nancy Hunter is seen pointing out one of the old farm cows that will bring a number of good calves if she is bred to a good bull like the Guernsey above. Mrs. Hunter is a sister of Mr. Joseph and assists with the dairy herd.

This is the kind of offspring (seen in bottom picture) that good bulls and grade cows bring. The eight little heifer calves are from the bull above and cows like the one Mrs. Hunter exhibits. In fact, one is hers.



TWO FARM YOUTHS, Martin Witt of Livingston, Ala., and William Richardson of Gallion, Ala. (both center), now have two dairy cows each instead of one. The extra milkers were awarded them as prizes last week at the Uniontown, Ala., Dairy show, which is helping to encourage increased milk production in the South. Left to right: John Grayson, vocational agricultural teacher of Livingston; Martin, standing between his champion Guernsey and the Jersey he won; William, between his reserve champion Jersey and the one he was awarded; and Morgan O. Rowser, acting county agent of Marengo county.

3,000 See Alabama 4H'ers Parade Dairy Cows; Win Blue Ribbons, Cash

Independent Sat. 11-17-51 Chicago, Ill.

UNIONTOWN, Ala. — The stepped-up drive for increased milk production in the South was reflected last week in the quality of the 140 cows exhibited at the Uniontown, Ala., Dairy show.

More than 3,000 farmers witnessed the show which attracted 4-H and New Farmers of America exhibitors from seven west central Alabama counties—part of the Black Land Belt area where grasses grow better than cotton. Prizes valued at $1,600 were awarded the farm youths.

Martin Witt's two-year-old Guernsey cow walked off with first place honors, winning for her owner a bred Jersey heifer worth $225, a rosette, and $12 in cash.

The second place award went to William Richardson's 18-month-old Jersey heifer, gaining for herself a companion heifer valued at $150, a rosette, and $12 for William.

The 16-year-old owner of the first placer is an NFA'er of Livingston; owner of the runner up Jersey is a 10-year-old 4-H'ers of Gallion. It was the latter's first time to enter an animal; the former had exhibited cows on two other occasions.

"There was a marked improvement in the animals exhibited at this year's dairy show over those shown during the four previous years," said Extension Dairyman John L. Parrish of Alabama Polytechnic Institute who judged the animals. Employing the Danish system of judging, he gave 20 of the cows blue ribbons, 65, red ribbons, and the remaining 55, white markers.

The county agents and vocational agriculture teachers who helped direct the event say that a better system of dairying is being developed as a result of the show. They point out that 1,500 farm families in the west central Alabama area are increasing their income by selling milk. However, at present most of it is grade B and goes to cheese factories.

F. T. McQueen, vocational agriculture teacher trainer, says that efforts are being made to continue improving the quality of dairy cows in Alabama, as well as milking facilities. Both he and Mr. Hill praise the Uniontown Exchange Club for sponsoring the show to help highlight the importance of dairying.

The Uniontown show is the largest of three dairy shows conducted in the State for Negro farm youths. The other two are held in Decatur and Dadeville.

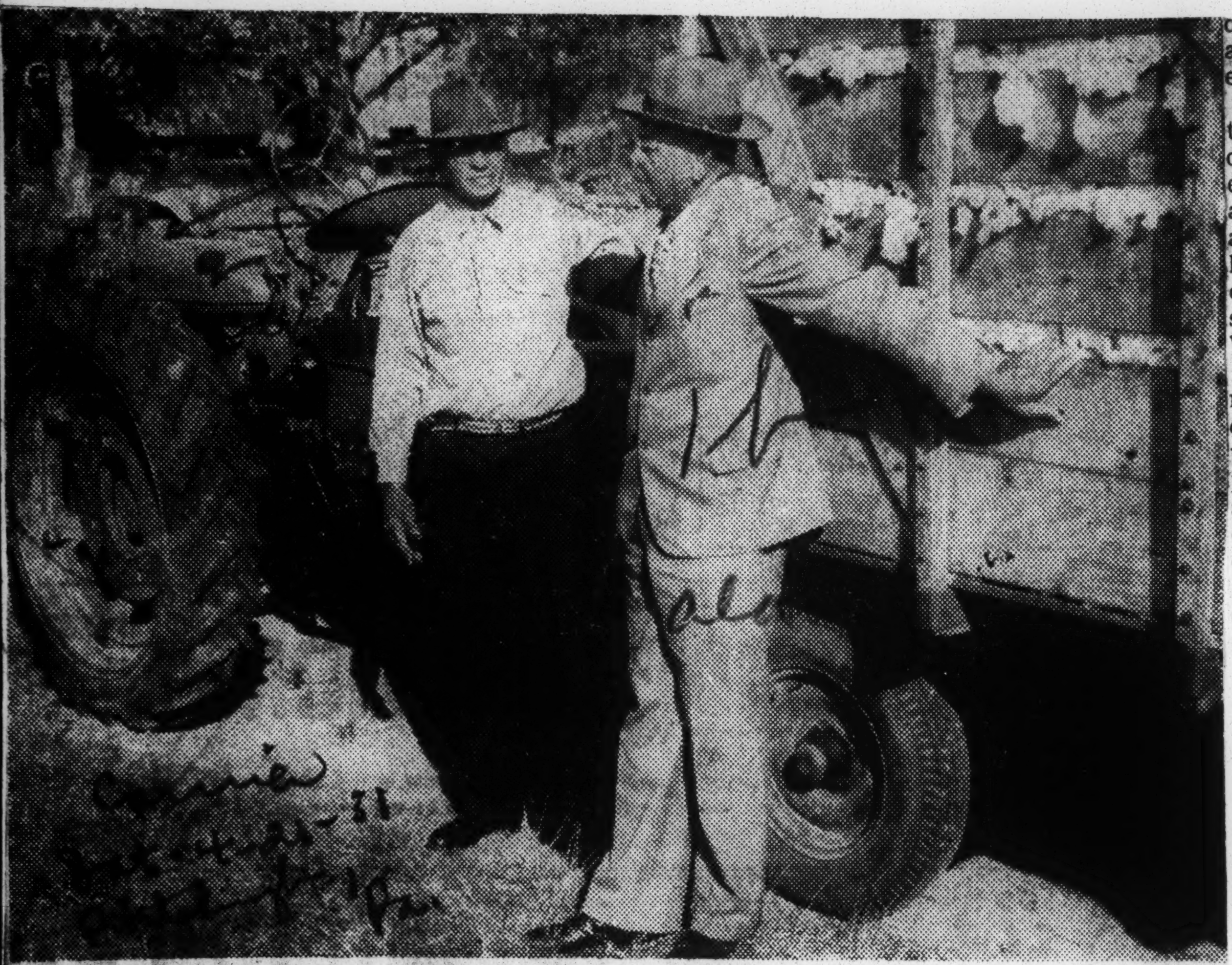
Prizes valued at $1,621 were awarded to first and second placers among six classes of dairy cows exhibited by 4-H'ers and NFA'ers. Owners of the winners were: Findley Lewis, Faunsdale; Napolean Jones, George J. Brown, and Lewis Williams, Uniontown; Willie Blakely, Butler; William Richardson and Phillip Thomas, Gallion; Terry Peoples, Eutaw; Martin Witt, Cornelius Smith and Bernard Moore, Livingston; and Walker Cade, Thomaston.

Judging honors for 4-H'ers went to Dallas county team composed of Jordan Smith, Willie B. Jones, and Etherline Taylor; The NFA'ers first place judging team of Lincoln High school, Perry county, was composed of Charles Valentine, Lawrence Sullivan, and Albert Turner. Each team received a trophy.

Showmanship awards went to Calvin Sims, Delores Pickett, and Roosevelt Moore. The awards were $35, $20, and $10 respectively.

Courier Sat. 11-17-51 Pittsburgh, Pa.

DOUBLED DAIRY STOCK—These two farm youths, Martin Witt of Livingston, Ala., and William Richardson of Gallion, Ala.—shown at center, now have two dairy cows each instead of one. The extra milkers were awarded them as prizes last week at the Uniontown Dairy Show which is helping to encourage increased milk production in the South. Left to right are John L. Grayson, vocational agriculture teacher; Martin, standing between his champion Guernsey and the Jersey he won; William, between his reserve champion Jersey and the one he was awarded, and Morgan O. Rowser, acting county agent of Marengo County. Mr. Grayson helped Martin raise and groom his cow and Rowser assisted William.



KNOWS HIS COTTON—Moses H. Smothers, left, $20,000-a-year farmer of the Montgomery (Ala.) area, is doubling his cotton crop this year, but not at the expense of diversification and sound farming practices. At right is County Agent J. T. Alexander, who is encouraging all the farmers in his county to grow a larger crop within the limits of a balanced farming program. They are standing by a load of cotton hitched to a tractor.—USDA Photo.

$20,000-a-Year Man

Ala. Cotton Farmer Helping His Country In Crop Emergency

WASHINGTON—Although Moses H. Smothers, $20,000-a-year farmer of the Montgomery, Ala., area, is doubling his cotton acreage this year to help meet the need for this important fiber, he isn't doing it at the expense of diversification and good farming practices.

How Mr. and Mrs. Smothers are continuing their balanced farming program while expanding their cotton acreage is contained in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from state leader, W. B. Hill of the Alabama State Extension Service.

EXTRA PRODUCTION

In addition to 100 acres of cotton, Mr. and Mrs. Smothers plan to produce two tons of field peas, 800 bushels of corn, thirty bushels of sweet potatoes, five tons of peanuts, fourteen hogs and a couple of calves.

"We are going to help produce the 16 million bales of cotton the Government is requesting," says Mr. Smothers. "But we are not going to slip back into one crop farming, and we are not going to mine our soil." County Agent J. T. Alexander of Montgomery County, like the other agents of the South, is encouraging the farmers to grow a larger cotton crop in a balanced farming program.

The Smotherses believe in sound soil conservation practices. Every year, they plant winter cover crops and carry out other measures designed to prevent erosion and to build up the fertility of their land. Already they have purchased forty tons of fertilizer for this year's crops.

24-HOUR-DAY

Mr. and Mrs. Smothers started farming as tenants forty-four years ago. "I used to plow all day and then cut hair at night and on Saturdays to help make ends meet," says Mr. Smothers.

Little by little, they saved up to buy a farm of their own. Today they own 220 acres about eleven miles east of Montgomery, and their gross receipts average about $20,000 annually. They have eight grown sons and daughters. Three of their sons served overseas during World War II.

Although for two years in a row, boll weevils and bad weather have given them a licking on their cotton, the Smotherses are planting 100 acres of its this spring. "We can afford to keep on trying, especially if our Government needs it, so long as we raise other crops to carry us over in case of a cotton failure," says Mr. Smothers.

Negro Dairy Show To Be Held Oct. 18

UNIONTOWN, Sept. 14 (U.P.)—The Fifth Regional All-Negro Dairy Show is to be held here Oct. 18.

It will be held this year in a colliseum built expressly for that purpose by local citizens and the state.

Seven counties will be represented by 4-H and NFA members and adult exhibitors.

Originally sponsored by the Uniontown Exchange Club in an effort to improve race relations, the project now also is sponsored by the Alabama Extension Service, the Department of Vocational Agriculture, the Alabama Agricultural Center Board and the Uniontown Lions Club.

FIRST BALE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY COTTON was auctioned off Tuesday with State Commissioner of Agriculture acting as auctioneer and accepting the highest bid of .82 cents a pound from Cliff Judkins, representing the Mutual Warehouse Company. From left to right is Judkins, State Commissioner Frank Stewart and smiling Charlie Brown, on whose farm the 503-pound bale was grown.

Staple Sold At Auction Here—

Negro Farmer Gets $412.46 For First '51 Bale Of Cotton

By C. W. WEAVER

All the Browns were happy Tuesday night out at their small home at Mt. Meigs, for the head of the house, Charlie, had brought home the bacon in the form of a check for $412.46 in payment for Montgomery County's first bale of cotton for 1951.

A few hours before his homecoming the smiling Negro cotton farmer had stood beside State Commissioner of Agriculture Frank Stewart as the latter, acting as auctioneer, started the bidding at 45 cents a pound and raised it to the highest bid of 82 cents, offered by Cliff Judkins, representing the Mutual Warehouse Company.

But behind the sale of the county's first bale, lies a story of determination and a will to win despite the frivolities of Mother Nature.

For Brown, according to County Agent J. T. Alexander, has had a hard year with his 150 acres planted in cotton. Last year Brown had planted 93 acres in cotton, cooperating with the cotton acreage reduction program ordered by the government. This year, when the total acreage was boosted, the Mt. Meigs farmer planted an additional fifty-seven acres, and many a time he wished he hadn't.

For he had to poison his entire crop and almost had to poison it the second time. However, the hot, dry weather routed the boll weevils from his second crop, and with the aid of fertilizer and a certain amount of nitrate of soda, "picking time" was one of rejoicing.

And Charlie Brown is not unappreciative of a special order from the local director of the Office of Price Stabilization, which permitted him to receive more than the ceiling price per pound for that first bale. Arrangements were made whereby any bid above the present 45.48 cents per pound ceiling, could be construed as a bonus for delivering the first bale of cotton to the warehouse.

So Charlie and his wife and two children were smiling from ear to ear Tuesday, and if he gave his much-used tractor a friendly pat on the hood, it was simply in appreciation of what he knew that tractor had done for him in fighting Mother Nature against almost insurmountable odds.

Jefferson's first bale—A Powderly GI farmer, N. H. Pruitt (right), has produced Jefferson County's first bale of cotton for 1951. He is shown with Elbert Reed (left) as they sold the bale, ginned yesterday at Warrior. The bale was ginned by the Farmers Gin Company, and grown at Oxmoor.

Macon County Farm Products Valued At $6,040,000 In 1950

This is the 27th of a series of articles dealing with the agricultural production in 1950 of the counties which are generally regarded as being in the Montgomery trade district. This is the 25th year these or similar articles have appeared in The Advertiser, and written by Mr. Mullin.

By ATTICUS MULLIN

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Feb. 2—Macon County, generally regarded as a small agricultural county, produced in the year 1950 a total of $6,040,000 worth of farm products. Included in this total are timber and forest products.

Macon was at one time one of the large cotton producing counties of the state, but last year cotton and cottonseed barely held first place, with a value of $2,500,000, barely heading beef, which produced $2,100,000.

Macon has become a seed producer, and last year the farmers of Macon sold more than $5,000,000 worth of grass and other seed. Macon is going in strongly for the production of seed, and the industry is expected to grow rapidly.

Various clovers, other legumes, and grass seed make up the largest percentage of the seed sold. Cotton seed amounts to a big sum, but cotton seed are not counted when they talk of selling seed in Macon County.

The following is the breakdown on Macon County farm production, and its value: Cotton and cotton seed, $2,500,000; beef cattle, $2,100,000; hogs, $120,000; poultry and poultry products, $140,000; milk, $300,000; seed, $500,000; timber, $300,000; peanuts, $40,000; truck crops, $40,000.

In 1950, Macon farmers planted 20,500 acres to cotton, which made 10,500 bales. County Farm Agent M. F. Whatley, who has done such a fine job in Macon County, having been there 17 years, says the cotton acreage will be increased 25 per cent this year.

He is a little afraid poison, which was plentiful last year, will be scarce this year. I visited him on the first day of the big freeze, with the thermometer around 10, and he was of the opinion that boll weevils would be scarcer this year, but that their scarcity is all the more reason why the farmers should poison heavily and often.

Macon farmers last year made an average of 22 bushels of corn per acre in spite of the fact that dry weather cut down the crop.

Whatley said the farmers of Macon can make corn if they get any sort of season.

About 50 per cent of the corn planted is hybrid, and some few farmers have already begun to hog off corn. Whatley expects this practice to grow year by year.

Macon is made up of 33 per cent prairie land and 66 per cent sandy land, and has about the most varied soil of any county in the state, and a practice that will suit one section does not suit another.

This diversification keeps the county agent on the jump at all times.

The farmers are getting more and more improved pastures each year, and last year they got 5,000 acres of new permanent pasture. They make them out of the clovers, sericea, dallis grass, and some fescue. They have found fescue to work well on bottom and moist land.

Whatley thinks all of the grasses and clovers have a place in Macon. They have 30,000 head of beef cattle, and 7,500 head of dairy cattle in the county, and they also have 14,000 hogs.

Small Farmer Becomes Largest Cattle Raiser In The South

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In line with the trend toward increased livestock production in the South, Olanda Raymond Brown of Eutaw, Ala., has become one of the largest Negro cattle raisers in the region, says State Extension Leader W. B. Hill in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The 39-year-old farmer, who began as a boy with only one calf, now operates 7,300 acres which are devoted to beef cattle pastures, timberland, and cotton. His four portable sawmills cut the timber and his trucks haul it; also he has trucks for transporting cattle to market.

As a boy of 12 on his father's cotton farm near Eutaw, young Raymond began raising a calf. Little by little, he increased his herd to 11 head; then he bought an old jalopy and began hauling calves to market for himself and neighbors.

By the time he was 20, the young cattleman owned a new truck and was making regular trips to cattle markets as far away as Birmingham. The next year he married and he and his bride scraped together enough to make the down payment on 40 acres. "Sale of the timber off the land brought enough to finish paying for it," says Mr. Brown.

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Today, the Browns own 1,300 acres and rent an additional 6,000. This land is devoted to pasture, woodland, cotton, and corn. They plan to increase their cotton acreage this year in order to help meet the urgent need for this important fiber. Tenants on their place now handle all of the cotton.

The Browns have expanded their beef herd from a few head in the 30's to more than 200 brood cows and eight purebred bulls. Six of these are Herefords, one is a Brahman, and the other, an Angus. On an average they sell 180 head of cattle a year. "In 1945, we sold $10,000 worth of calves at one time," Mr. Brown states.

County Agent F. L. Jackson has helped them to cut their production costs by showing them how to improve their pastures. Of the 3,600 acres they had in pasture last year, 600 were improved. These were seeded to White Dutch clover, lespedez, and dallis grass. And plans are underway for improving more of the pasture area as soon as long-term leasing arrangements are completed on part of the 6,000 rented acres.

Mr. Brown points with pride to his watering pond which the Production and Marketing Administration of the USDA helped him to dig.

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Also, the Browns own eight logging trucks, four lumber trucks, four tractors, and two cattle trucks. "Oh, I guess we own about $50,000 worth of trucks and tractors," figures the cattleman.

Five years ago, the Browns built and equipped for themselves a modern home. It sits back from the highway on a 480-acre plot that is devoted mostly to pasture.

The couple has one son, 17-year-old Alphonse. He plans to enter Tuskegee next year where he will study animal husbandry and prepare himself to be a successful livestock farmer. "Someday, we hope he will take over," says Mr. Brown.

Edgar Smith Is Alabama's 'Best Farmer'

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—A 51-year-old Clarke county man was named Alabama's outstanding soil conservation farmer of the year last week.

The honor was accorded Edgar Smith of Walker Springs, Ala., which is about 68 miles north of Mobile.

Smith was selected as the state's number one farmer by a committee appointed by the president of the Alabama Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors.

He will represent Negro farmers of Alabama at the annual Log Cabin jamboree to be held later this summer near Sparta, Ga. The jamboree is held to stimulate interest in soil conservation and better farming among Negro farmers in the South.

One farmer is named from each of the 13 southern states. Winners meet in what is known as the Log Cabin jamboree, where the topmost farmer of the South is chosen.

THIS FARMER STARTED WITH ONE CALF. — Starting as a boy with only one calf, Olando Raymond Brown, center, of Eutaw, Ala., now maintains a herd of brood cows and bulls that number more than 200 head. On an average, he sells 180 calves and culled stock every year. The animals are being herded so that he can make a selection for marketing in Birmingham. County Agent F. L. Jackson, left, and State Leader W. B. Hill, right, are helping the cattleman to make a choice. Note the side view of his modern home. — USDA Photo

Farmer Who Started With One Calf Now Among Top Cattlemen

Informer Sat. 2-24-51 Houston

In line with the trend toward increased livestock production in the South, Olando Raymond Brown of Eutaw, Ala., has become one of the largest Negro cattle raisers in the region, says State Extension Leader W. B. Hill in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The 39-year-old famer, who began as a boy with only one calf, now operates 7,300 acres which are devoted to beef cattle pastures, timberland, and cotton. His four portable sawmills cut the timber and his trucks haul it; also he has trucks for transporting cattle to market.

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By the time he was 20, the young cattleman owned a new truck and was making regular trips to cattle markets as far away as Birmingham. The next year he married and he and his bride scraped together enough to make the downpayment on 40 acres. "Sale of the timber off the land brought enough to finish paying for it," says Mr. Brown.

NEVER ONE CROP

They began raising hay for their livestock and a few acres of cotton. "The first year, rain took our cotton crop, but income from the sale of cattle tided us over," the cattleman recalls. "And we learned one important lesson -- never count on one crop."

Today, the Browns own 1,300 acres and rent an additional 6,000. This land is devoted to pasture, woodland, cotton,and corn. They plan to increase their cotton acreage this year in order to help meet the urgent need for this important fiber. Tenants on their place now handle all of the cotton.

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Mr. Brown points with pride to his watering pond which the Production and Marketing Administration of the USDA helped him to dig.

Aside from raising cattle, cotton, and timber, the Browns buy and cut timber off other farms. Starting out in 1940 with one portable sawmill they found themselves stuck with when the owner defaulted on a note they had signed for him at the bank, they now own four such mills. "Some months a mill may gross as much as $8,000," the enterprising farmer points out.

Also, the Browns own eight logging trucks, four lumber trucks, four tractors, and two cattle trucks. "Oh, I guess we own about $50,000 worth of trucks and tractors," figures the cattleman.

Five years ago, the Browns built and equipped for themselves a modern home. It sits back from the highway on a 480-acre plot that is devoted mostly to pastures.

The couple has one son, 17-year-old Alphonse. He plans to enter Tuskegee next year where he will study animal husbandry and prepare himself to be a successful livestock farmer. "Someday, we hope he will take over," says Mr. Brown.

Farmer, 39, Among Largest Raisers of Cattle in South

Afro American

EUTAW, Ala. (ANP)—Oland R. Brown of this city has become one of the largest cattle raisers in the region, says State Extension Leader W. B. Hill in a report received by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The 39-year-old farmer, who began as a boy with only one calf, now operates 7,300 acres which are devoted to beef cattle pastures, timberland, and cotton. His four portable sawmills cut the timber and his trucks haul it. He also has trucks for transporting cattle to market.

He and his wife own about $50,000 worth of trucks and tractors and operate 1300 acres and rent an additional 6,000 acres devoted to pasture, woodland, cotton and corn. They sell an average of 180 head of cattle a year, and in 1945 sold $10,000 worth of calves at one time.

$50,000 in Trucks and Tractors!

Eutaw Farmer Places Main Trust on Cattle

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BUILD MODERN HOME

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The couple has one son, 17-year-old Alphonse. He plans to enter Tuskegee next year where he will study animal husbandry and prepare himself to be a successful livestock farmer. "Someday, we hope he will take over," says Mr. Brown.

Macon County Beef Industry Shows Remarkable Growth

TUSKEGEE, ALA., March 19—Macon County's beef industry has trebled within the last dozen years—and it's just beginning to grow.

This was the opinion expressed here at the organizational meeting of the Macon County Cattlemen's Association.

County Agent M. F. Whatley told the group that the number of beef cattle has shot up from less than 10,000 in 1940 to a present total of 30,000 head. The next 10 years will see a far faster climb in beef output, he predicted.

The beef growers named Dave Johnson, of Hardaway, president of the new organization and voted to affiliate with the Alabama Cattlemen's Association.

Other officers are I. D. Vail, Armstrong, vice president, and William Varner, Jr., Tuskegee, secretary-treasurer. Directors include W. M. Russell, Tuskegee; B. B. Spratling, Jr., Roba, and G. A. Swearinger, Shorter.

Guest speaker for Friday night's event was State Senator Preston Clayton, of Clayton, a vice president of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association. He told of that group's effort to assist in drafting anti-rustling legislation and other laws that should aid the cattle industry.

W. H. Gregory, A. P. I. Extension livestockman, appeared on the program.

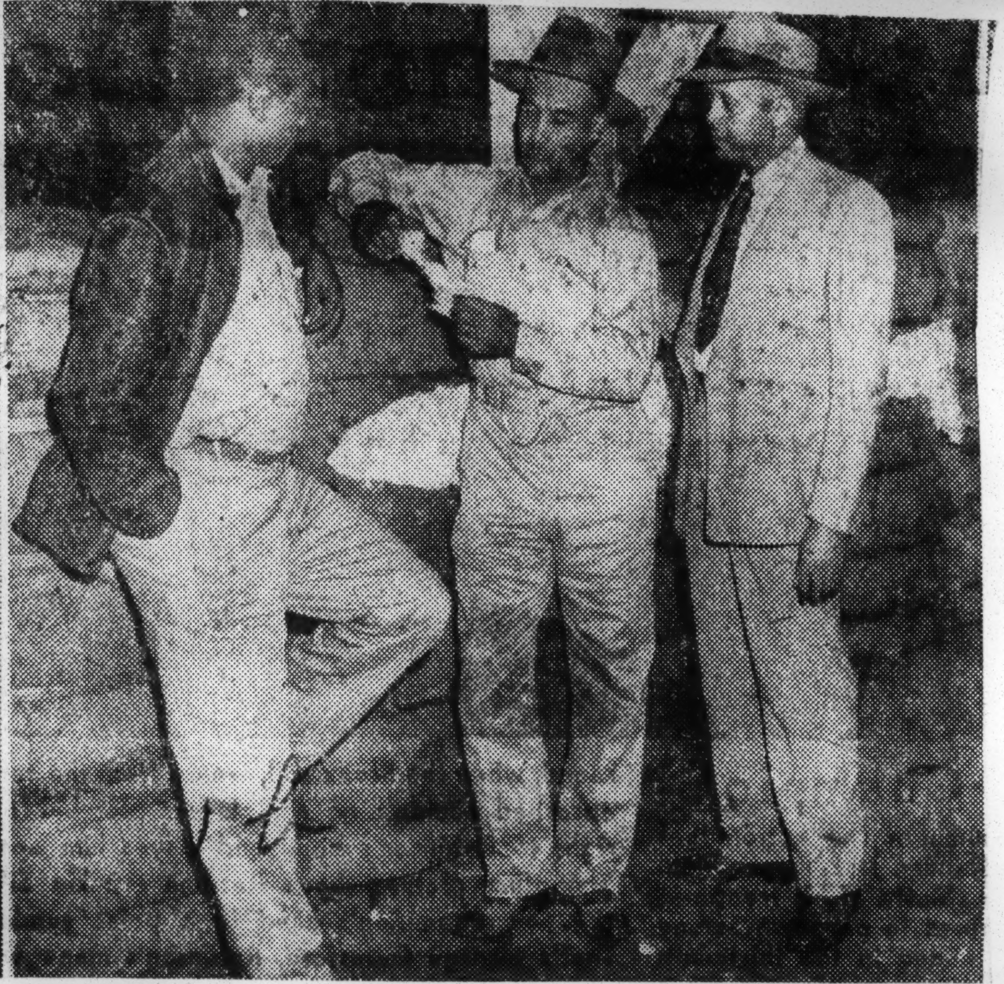
In his talk Agent Whatley revealed that 15 years ago practically no Macon farmer was using fertilizer on pastures. "Even free phosphate, furnished under the government farm program, was refused by some cattlemen, for they did not appreciate its value in producing better grazing. But now," continued Whatley, "practically every livestockman is buying all the phosphate and other fertilizer materials he can get."

It was estimated that last year Macon farmers planted 6,000 acres of winter grazing, bringing their total acreage of crops for feed at that season up to 20,000. Unusual freezes ruined a big part of the crops, but Whatley said he expects even more grazing to be seeded next fall.

Livestockmen have improved 20,000 acres of permanent pastures during the last 10 years.

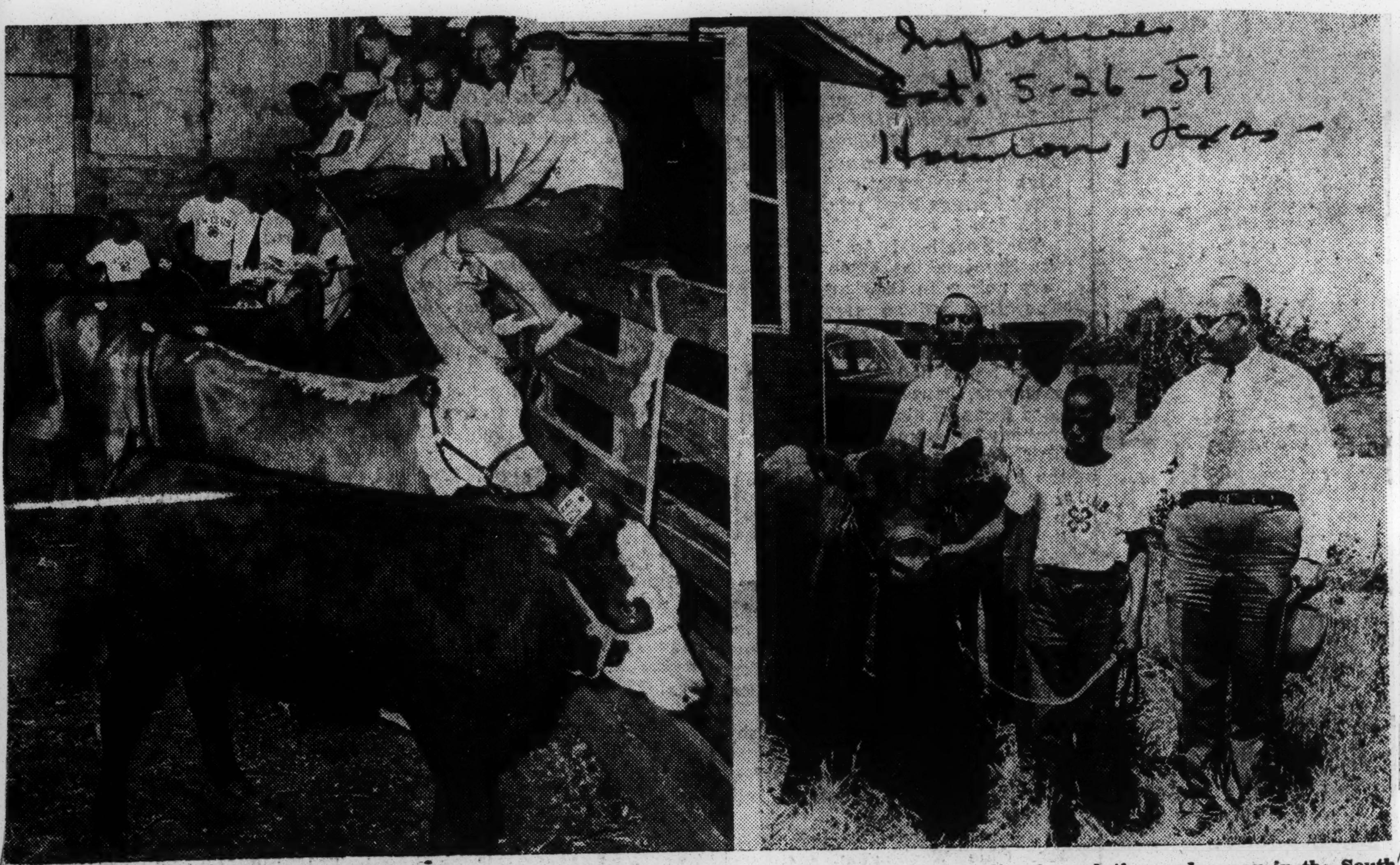
In addition to the officers, Macon cattlemen at the meeting held in Fort-Davis, included E. L. Story, J. H. Lamar, H. E. Noble, W. Mack Segrest, J. F. Moorer, Paul Holladay, Foy Thompson, Sidney Bledsole, C. H. Fort, W. F. Eich, Jr.

D. L. Gibson, J. W. Walton, J. E. Jordan, W. L. Holstun, R. M. Hall, Jr., Fred A. Newton, W. F. Eich, Sr., J. P. Eich, Madison Davis, Harold G. Eich, and C. L. Story.



CATTLE FOR PROFIT—In the evening, when the day's work of managing a 7,300-acre farming and timber enterprise is over, Mr. and Mrs. Olando Raymond Brown of Eutaw, Ala., read the papers and tidy up their modern home. In the middle photo, Mr. Crown and County Agent F. L. Jackson, left, and State Leader W. B. Hill, right, look over a few choice bales of cotton from the Brown farm at the warehouse. Cotton is a sideline with Mr. Brown. At the right, Messrs. Jackson and Hill help the cattleman as he chooses some choice critters for marketing in Birmingham. On the average, Mr. Brown sells 180 calves and culled stock annually. His herd of brood cows and bulls number over two hundred head.—USDA Photos.

Informer Sat. 5-26-51 Houston, Texas



$50,000 WORTH OF CATTLE EXHIBITED BY ALABAMA YOUTH—In line with the agricultural revolution under way in the South Negro farm boys and girls of Alabama exhibited nearly $50,000 worth of livestock in Montgomery, Ala., recently, in one of the largest annual fat stock shows ever conducted by Negro farm people in the region. Nearly 150 head of cattle and 300 head of hogs were exhibited for championship awards at the Union Stock Yards and then auctioned. Fourteen-year-old 4-H Boyn Wallace Maffett, of Newell, Ala. above, showed an Aberdeen Angus which was chose grand champion. The prize steer brought $967.50 plus $135 first prize money to his youthful owner. Dr. F. D. Patterson, to the right of Wallace, president of Tuskegee Institute, was one of the many desiring a look at the two champions—boy and beast.

Wallace Maffett, who showed the grand champion steer, is the son of a farmer who recently completed payment on a 198-acre farm he purchased through the Farmers Home Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H'ers says he is going to use part of the $1,100 from his steer to help his parents install an electric pump and build a bathroom.

The youngester bought the Angus six months ago for $235 and added close to 500 pounds to the animal by feeding it corn, beef chow, alfalfa, cotton-seed meal, and lespedeza hay.

The clubber's father, W. M. Maffett, is the father of 22 children; 19 are living. The FHA lent him money to buy a farm and build a home in 1939.

Before I got the FHA loan," says Mr. Maffett, I had lost three farms due to poor management. The Farmers Home not only lent me money to buy a farm, but it also showed me how to manage it." The 65-year-old farmer started out as a sharecropper in 1906. But I didn't get a foothold until the Farmers Home lent me a hand." He paid out in 1947. His plans call for a greatly expanded livestock program.

$50,000 Worth Cattle; Hogs Shown By Ala. Farm Youth

Informer 5-26-51 Houston

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — In line with the agricultural revolution underway in the South, colored farm boys and grils of Alabama exhibited here last week nearly $50,000 worth of livestock in one of the largest annual fat stock shows ever conducted by Negro farm people in the region.

Nearly 150 head of cattle and 300 head of hogs were exhibited for championship awards at the Union Stock Yards and then auctioned. The cattle brought $32,000 and the hogs approximately $15,000.

A 14-year-old 4-H boy, Wallace Maffett, of Newell, Ala., showed an Aberdeen Angus which was chosen the grand champions. The 1,290-pound steer sold for 75 cents a pound, bringing a total of $967.50. Prize money added $135 to the sale price. The animal was purchased by G. W. Godwin of Delchamps grocery firm.

The reserve champion, a Hereford steer, was owned by Leon Toles of Ramer, Ala. It was purchased by R.C. Brantley of City Provision for $455. Sale price of the other calves ranged from 26 to 37 cents a pound, while the hogs brought from 20 to 45 cents a pound.

The grand champion pig, a Duroc, was owned by Welton White of Vida, Ala., and the reserve champion, also a Duroc, was owned by Jerome Gray of Evergreen, Ala.

J. E. Settle, head of the animal husbandry division at Virginia State College, served as judge; State Extension Leader W. B. Hill of Alabama supervised the show, and Tom McCord of this city was auctioneer.

Principal speaker at the banquet at Alabama State Teachers College following the show was Sherman Briscoe, information specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He praised the 4-H'ers and New Farmers of America upon their splendid entries, and urged continued study of scientific agriculture, more diversification, and increased farm ownership.

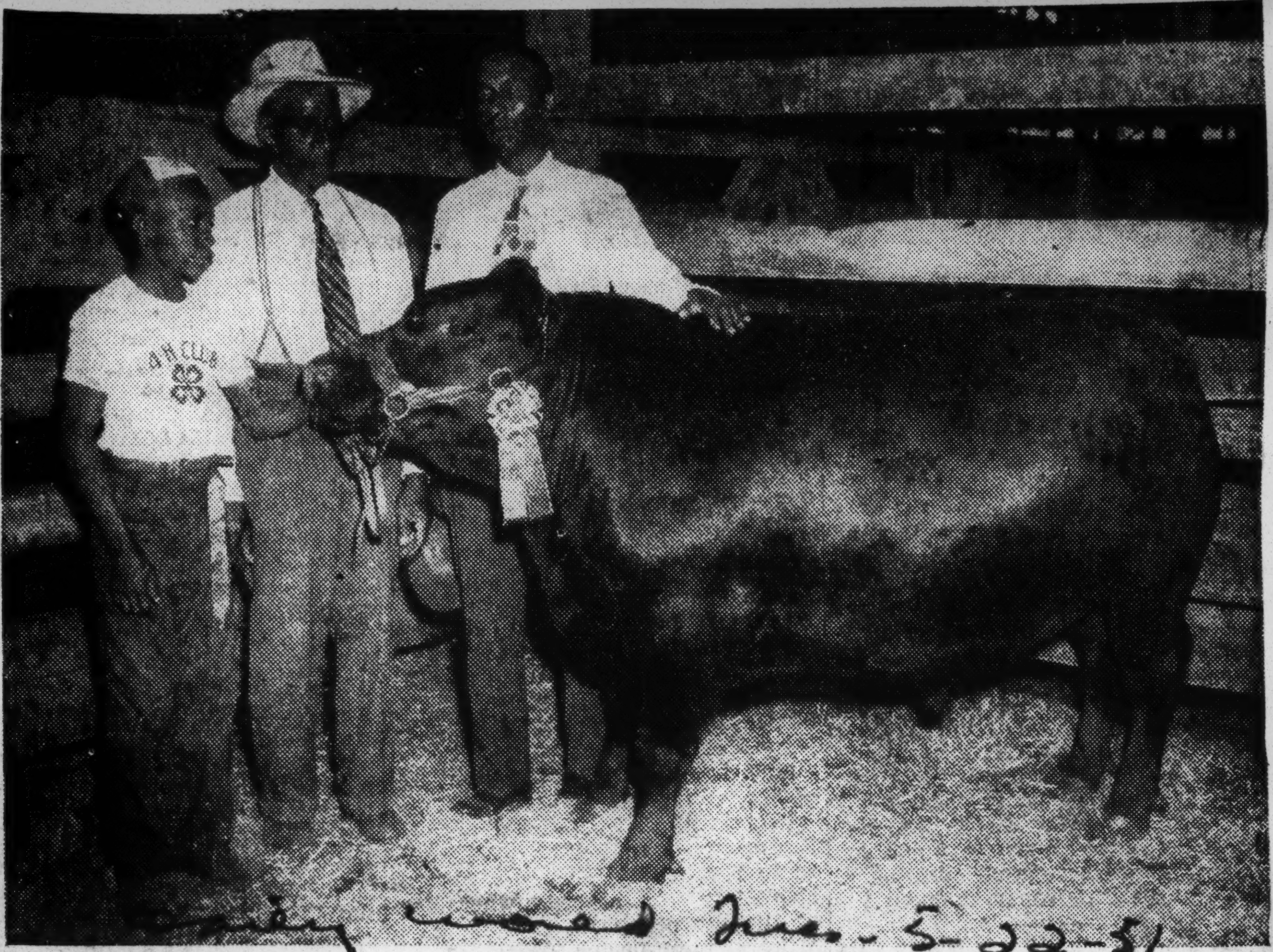
T. R. Agnew, State 4-H club agent, presented special awards at the banquet; and A. Floyd, itinerant teacher-trainer of Alabama, presented the ribbons and cash awards at the stock yard.

Among the other prize winners were Frederick Gray for his reserve champion Angus; Ned Jackson for his reserve champion Hereford; Charles Booker for his champion Shorthorn: and Warner Marable for his reserve champion Shorthorn.

Eugene Harrison of Tuskegee exhibited the only Braham steer in the show. First prize for showman ship went to Elizabeth Hayden of Yently, Ala.

Judging team awards went to Montgomery County 4-H and NFA boys. The prize for pens of three hogs was taken by Jerome Gray.

The Montgomery Chamber of Commerce cooperated with the Alabama Extension Service and the Vocational Agriculture teachers in sponsoring the show and sale.

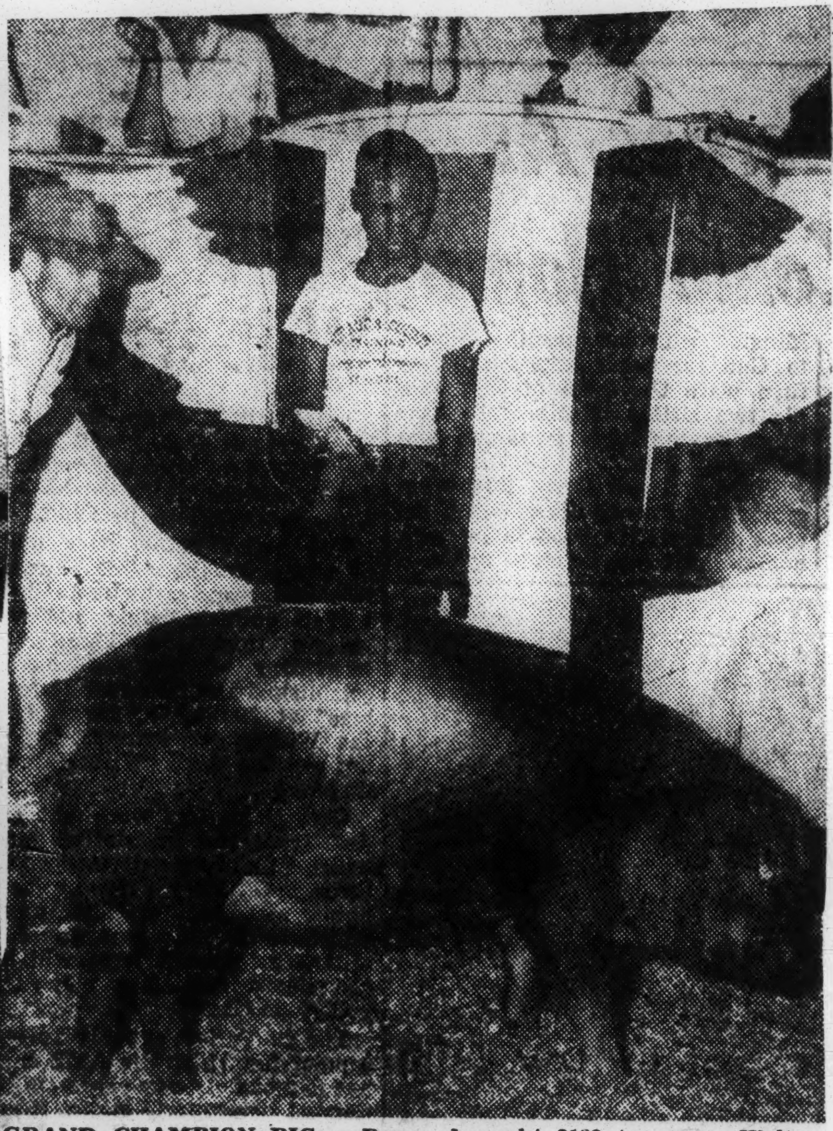


PART WITH THEIR CHAMPION — These three — son, father, and county agent — had a part in raising this Aberdeen Angus up to be champion of the Alabama Fat Stock Show. He was sold a few minutes before for $967.50. Left to right are Wallace Maffett, owner of the steer; W. M. Maffett, the 4-H'ers dad; and County Agent Theodore Shumpert of Randolph County. — (USDA Photo)

EUGENE HARRISON of Tuskegee, Ala., showed the only Brahman steer exhibited at the Annual Alabama Fat Stock Show last week in Montgomery. Within the last few years, colored farmers in the South have begun to raise Brahman cattle. This animal is better adapted than other cattle to the climate of the region — USDA Photo.

Of FARMS and FARMERS

4-H'er WALLACE Maffett stands with his grand champion steer, an Aberdeen Angus, which brought its proud owner $1,100 in sales price and prizes during annual Alabama Fat Stock show in Montgomery. At right is Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. Others are County Agent Theodore Shumpert and W. M. Maffett, the owner's dad.



GRAND CHAMPION PIG, a Duroc, brought $122 to owner Welton White, Vida, Ala., a member of New Farmers of America. The pig was purchased by R. C. Brantley of City Provision, Montgomery. Altogether, 300 pigs were exhibited and auctioned.

4-H'er Wins Grand Champ Award In Montgomery Livestock Show

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Young 4-H'er Wins

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Maffett Farming

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"Before I got the FHA loan," says Maffett, "I had lost three farms due to poor management. The Farmers home not only lent me money to buy a farm, but it also showed me how to manage it." The 65-year-old farmer started out as a sharecropper in 1906. "But I didn't get a foothold until the Farmers home lent me a hand." He paid out in 1947. His plans call for a greatly expanded livestock program.

ONLY BRAHMA STEER exhibited at show was one owned by Eugene Harrison. Within last few years Negro farmers in South have begun to raise Brahma cattle as the animal is better adapted to the climate of the region than other cattle.

RESERVE CHAMPION, a Hereford, brought $445 to owner, Leon Toles of Ramer, Ala., (right). Both Toles and Maffett, who had the grand champion, received more than $100 in prize money in addition to the purchase price. At left is State 4-H Agent T. R. Agnew.

Sideline Dairy Brings Him $20 a Day

Charles J. Jackson, right, of Helena, Ark., has a dairy enterprise that brings him a gross of $20 a day. At 65, Mr. Jackson does the milking himself with machines like the one at left, bottles the milk, and delivers it door-to-door. Photographed with Mr. Jackson in his bottling room is County Agent Berry Minor. Mr. Jackson grosses $50,000 annually from milk, cotton, and other crops.—USDA Photo

Ex-Ala. Farmer Hits Ark. Pay Dirt, Earns $50,000

Sought Better School for Children; Heads Gin Co-operative; Cotton, Chief Product

Seeking a better school for his children brought Charles J. Jackson to Phillips County, Ark., and a good living on the farm has kept him there, says District Agent T.R. Betton of the Arkansas State Extension Service in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The former tenant, who has become a $50,000-a-year cotton and dairy farmer, now owns 1,0[illegible]2 acres and heads a gin co-operative. He and his family migrated to Arkansas from Sheffield, Ala., in 1913 to raise rice.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson first settled near Stuttgart, the rice center of Arkansas, and rented a farm. But they remained there only a year, because there was only a three-month, one teacher school within six miles for their children.

Sold Timber

The next year, they moved to a community near Helena. With part of their savings, they made the down-payment on 240 wooded acres. They sold off most of the timber and cut drainage ditches through some of the marshiest areas to expand the acreage for "but now that we have three tractors, there are only 14 families left."

In recent years, County Agent Berry Minor has helped the Jacksons increase their cotton and corn yields by encouraging them to plant winter legumes and turn them under in the spring to enrich their soil. In addition to cotton, they raise truck crops, hay, and corn, and also operate a dairy which averages $20 a day.

There are six sons and daughters. One daughter operates the Jackson business enterprises in Helena. These include a funeral home, burial insurance, and real estate. The other children live elsewhere. A son, William, helps on the farm.

Upon retirement, Jackson plans to devote more time to the cooperative which he and his neighbors organized four years ago and built an $80,000 cotton gin at Wycamp. While only colored farmers hold membership in the co-op, it gins cotton for both white and colored farmers.
cotton.

Clarksdale Negro World's Champion Cotton - Picker

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark. — (AP) — The world's champion cotton picker is a 32-year-old father of five children from Clarksdale, Miss.

Johnnie Johnson yesterday picked 88 pounds of clean cotton in an hour and a half to take first prize of $1,000 in the 12th annual national cotton picking contest here.

A cotton picker by trade, Johnson is the second Negro to win the contest. Elijah Gordon of Harrisburg, Ark., won in 1942.

Johnson, who danced a jig and whooped when announced as the winner, has entered the contest six times. His best previous showing was third in 1942.

Second place went to Odell Mitchell of Bragg City, Mo. He picked 86 pounds to earn $250.

Malcolm Gramling of Osceola, Ark., picked 82 pounds to take third place and $100. Defending champion Ed Anderson of Gobler, Mo., was fourth with 82 pounds. He won $50.

Mrs. Eugene Shinault of Memphis won the women's championship and $250. She picked 76 pounds. Mrs. Veller Ray of Steele, Mo., won $100 and second place and Mrs. Carley Krutz of Blytheville, Ark., was third, good for $50.

SIDELINE DAIRY BRINGS $20 A DAY. — Although cotton is the main cash crop on the farm of Charles J. Jackson, center, of Helena, Ark., his dairy enterprise brings him a gross of $20 a day. At 65, Mr. Jackson does the milking himself with machines (note the one at left), bottles the milk, hauls it 10 miles to Helena, and delivers it door-to-door Photographed with Mr. Jackson in his bottling room are County Agent Berry Minor, left, and District Extension Agent T. R. Betton, right. Mr. Jackson grosses $50,000 annually from milk, cotton, and other crops. — USDA Photo

Farmer Grosses $50,000 Annually Off Diversified Farm In Arkansas

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The next year, they moved to a community near Helena where the school was nearer and somewhat better. They still live there. With part of their savings, the Jacksons made the down-payment on 240 acres that were wooded and swampy. Little by little, they sold off most of the timber and cut drainage ditches through some of the marshiest areas to expand the acreage for cotton production.

During the 1930's the Jacksons increased their holdings to 1,052 acres of which nearly half is in cotton grown by tenants. ('At one time, we had 30 tenant families on our place," says Mr. Jackson, "but now that we have three tractors, there are only 14 families left."

In recent years, County Agent Berry Minor has helped the Jacksons increase their cotton and corn yields by encouraging them to plant winter legumes and turn them under in the spring to enrich their soil. Also, he has shown them the advantage of improving their pastures by seding them to lespedeza and other good forage and hay crops.

While cotton is the main cash crop on the Jackson farm, it is by no means the only crop. In addition to cotton, they raise truck crops, hay, and corn, and also operate a dairy which averages $20 a day.

"You know, you can't count on one crop," says Mr. Jackson. "For example, some years, we raise 259 bales of cotton which now brings close to $50,000. But take, 1949, boll weevils and bad weather reduced our crop to 55 bales. I lost $5,000 on production costs alone," the farmer points out.

However, receipts from milk, hay corn, and eight acres of watermelons helped to fill the gap. "Nothing like having a crop or two to fall back on," says Mr. Jackson.

The Jacksons have a herd of 65 head of dairy cows, heifers, and steers. Thirty cows are being milked at present. On an average, they sell 50 gallons of milk a day. The hard working farmer milks the cows himself with two milking machines, bottles it, drives 10 miles to Helena and delivers most of it door-to-door. A son William helps with the raising of cotton, corn, and hay.

3-24-51

The Cheering Section:

Former Tenant Now Grosses $50,000.00 Annually Off 1,000 Acre Arkansas Farm

Seeking a better school for his children brought Charles J. Jackson to Phillips county and a good living on the farm has kept him there, says District Agent T. R. Betton of the Arkansas State Extension Service in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The former tenant, who has become a $50,000-a-year cotton and dairy farmer, now owns 1,052 acres and heads a Negro owned gin cooperative. He and his family migrated to Arkansas from Sheffield, Alabama, in 1913 to raise rice.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson first settled near Stuttgart, the rice center of Arkansas, and rented a farm. But they remained there only a year, because there was only a three-month, one-teacher school within six miles for their children.

The next year, they moved to a community near Helena where the school was nearer and somewhat better. They still live there. With part of their savings, the Jacksons made the down payment on 240 acres that were wooded and swampy. Little by little, they sold off most of the timber and cut drainage ditches through some of the marshiest areas to expand the acreage for cotton production.

During the 1930's the Jacksons increased their holdings to 1,052 acres of which nearly half is in cotton grown by tenants. "At one time, we had 30 tenant families on our place," says Mr. Jackson "but now that we have three tractors, there are only 14 families left."

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While cotton is the main cash crop on the Jackson farm, it is by no means the only crop. In addition to cotton, they raise truck crops, hay, and corn, and also operate a dairy which averages $20 a day.

"You know, you can't count on one crop," says Mr. Jackson. "For example, some years, we raise 250 bales of cotton which now bring close to $50,000. But take 1949, boll weevils and bad weather reduced our crop to 55 bales. I lost $5,000 on production costs alone," the farmer points out.

However, receipts from milk, hay, corn, and eight acres of watermelons helped to fill the gap. "Nothing like having a crop or two to fall back on," says Mr. Jackson.

The Jacksons have a herd of 65 head of dairy cows, heifers, and steers. Thirty cows are being milked at present. On an average, they sell 50 gallons of milk a day. The hard working farmer milks the cows himself with two milking machines, bottles it, drives ten miles to Helena and delivers most of it door-to-door. A son, William helps with the raising of cotton, corn, and hay.

"At 65, this gait is a little hard for me," Mr. Jackson intimates. He says he plans to retire in a year or two and turn the farm over to William. There are five other sons and daughters. One daughter operates the Jackson business enterprise in Helena. These include a funeral home, burial insurance, and real estate. The other children live elsewhere.

Upon retirement, Mr. Jackson plans to devote more time to the cooperative which he and his neighbors organized four years ago and built an $80,000 cotton gin at Wycamp. Until a year ago, it was said to be the most modern gin in the state.

While only Negro farmers hold membership in the co-op, it gins cotton for both white and colored farmers in the area. Mr. Jackson is president of the co-op; 35 farmers own stock in it.

Owns 1,000-Acre Holdings in Ark., Heads Co-Operative

WASHINGTON—Seeking a better school for his children brought Charles J. Jackson to Phillips County, Ark., and a good living on the farm has kept him there, says District Agent T. R. Betton of the Arkansas State Extension Service in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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DAIRY PAYS OFF

However, receipts from milk, hay, corn, and eight acres of watermelons helped to fill the gap. "Nothing like having a crop or two to fall back on," says Mr. Jackson.

The Jacksons have a herd of sixty-five head of dairy cows, heifers, and steers. Thirty cows are being milked at present. On an average, they sell fifty gallons of milk a day. The hard working farmer milks the cows himself with two milking machines, bottles it, drives ten miles to Helena and delivers most of it dood-to-door. A son, William, helps with the raising of cotton, corn, and hay.

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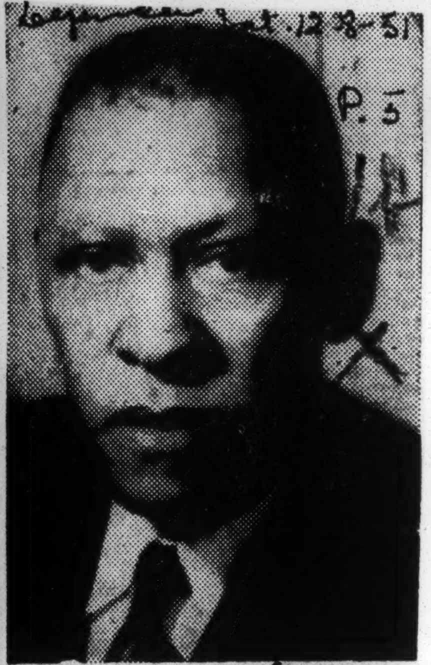
1b 1951

Thomas M. Campbell, Field Agent, U.S. Department of Agriculture



A GOOD SCOUT—Elected to membership of the National Committee of Rural Service by Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America is Thomas M. Campbell, field agent, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Tuskegee Institute. Campbell is author of the widely known publication "Fifty Years of Progress in Agriculture."

425,000 Colored Families Aided Through Extension

WASHINGTON—(A N P)—About 425,000 rural colored families were aided through the educational program of Cooperative Extension service during the fiscal year which ended last June, said Director M. L. Wilson in his annual report last week to the secretary of agriculture.

Among those served by a staff of 775 colored Extension workers were 325,000 farm families and 100,000 nonfarm families. Included in these families were 317,000 4-H boys and girls.

Director Wilson lists among the results achieved through the Extension program: Improved farming methods by 250,000 families and better homemaking practices by 227,000.

The improved farming methods crop diversification, pasture development, and increased numbers of livestock. For example, there were only six regular milk producers among Negro farmers in Tallapoosa County Ala., in 1945, and not one of these dairymen had a well balanced feed and pasture program or a good breeding system.

By 1949, however 25 colored farmers in the county were selling grade B milk to a cheese factory, and 10 of them had excellent feed and pasture programs. In fact, says Mr. Wilson, only two of the families purchased as much as $15 worth of feed during the year.

Among the home improement practices noted were better diets as a result of more home grown food, and more extensive food preservation. Nearly 210,000 families produced more fruits, vegetables, meats poultry and eggs for home use last year and 167,000 homemakers received in canning; freezing; drying and storing of food.

The families also improved their housing. Director Wilson reports that Extension agents helped 6,000 colored families plan the construction of new homes, and more than twice that number remodel their homes. More than 3,000 were aided in the installation of water systems, and 32,000 were given information and training in repairing remodeling and refinishing furniture.

The 317,000 colored 4-H'ers raised 128,000 acres of crops, including more than 25,000 acres of home gardens. Also they raised 83,000 head of livestock, and nearly two million chicken; turkeys and other birds.

On the home improvement side 4-H girls improved 37,000 rooms, made 210,000 articles for their rooms made 270,000 garments and remodeled 120,000 for themselves and members of their families.

Mr. Wilson quotes one of his aides as saying: "The Negro farm looks different from what it used to, the farmer looks different, his home looks different, and his family eats differently.'

Negro Extension Supervisors To Study Role In Mobilization

Negro Extension Service supervisors will study their role in peace, or in war during a five-day regional conference, June 18-22, at Prairie View A. & M. College, Prairie View, Tex.

The conference is being planned by Charles A. Sheffield, field agent of the Southern States; with the assistance of Field Agents T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell.

Theme of the conference is "The supervisor and his job in meeting our responsibilities in peace, in mobilization, or in war."

Extension supervisors from 17 States are expected to attend the conference. States that may be represented are: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

425,000 Rural Colored Families Aided Through Extension Program Last Year

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Among those served by a staff of 775 colored Extension workers were 325,000 farm families and 100,000 nonfarm families. Included in these families were 317,000 4-H boys and girls.

Director Wilson lists among the results achieved through the Extension program: improved farming methods by 230,000 families and better homemaking practices by 227,000.

The improved farming methods included diversification, pasture development, and increased numbers of livestock. For example, there were only six regular milk producers among Negro farmers in Tallapoosa County, Ala., in 1945, and not one of these dairymen had a well-balanced feed and pasture program or a good breeding system.

By 1949, however, 25 colored farmers in the county were selling grade B milk to a cheese factory, and 10 of them had excellent feed and pasture programs. In fact, says Mr. Wilson, only two of the families purchased as much as $15 worth of feed during the year.

Among the home improvement practices noted were better diets as a result of more home-grown food, and more extensive food preservation. Nearly 210,000 families produced more fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry, and eggs for home use last year, and 167,000 homemakers received training in canning, freezing, drying and storing of food.

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DEMONSTRATION AGENT. — Mrs. Willie C. Stovall, home demonstration agent of Monroe County, Aberdeen, Miss., was recently chosen as the best extension worker in the state, in a contest sponsored by the board of trustees of Institutions of higher learning. Her award was a 21 jewel wristwatch and a pen and pencil set. She was also winner of the agents award of $30 from a railroad company as a result of work done among 4-H girls in her county in a "Happier Living," contest sponsored by the company. Mrs. Stovall is a graduate of Alcorn A and M college with a B.S. in home economics. She has done further study at Tuskegee institute and Cornell university.

425,000 Rural Colored Families Aided Through Extension Progress

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Agriculture Extension Agent For 32 Years

G. W. Senter, retired extension agent of Davidson county, Tenn., receives a gift from the Negro Extension Organization of Tennessee for the 32 years of service and cooper...tion he gave the farm families of the county. Mrs. J. B. Pierce made the presentation. She is the widow of the late J. B. Pierce who was one of the pioneers in extension work in southern states.

lb 1951

FHA Administration

Farmers Live Better Under FHA Program

WASHINGTON

How do colored farmers fare under the Farmers Home Administration program? According to statistics prepared by the Agriculture Department's FHA Administration thousands of colored farmers are forging a better life for themselves and their families throughout the South as a result of the program.

Through loans and practical help in raising diversified crops and better livestock, improving pastures, growing year-round gardens, improved housing and solving similar farm and home problems these families are becoming more and more important in the communities in which they live.

According to Agriculture Department statistics about 32 per cent of the 113,000 farm families now operating in farms with aid from the FHA are colored. Likewise 17 per cent of the 28,000 farmers who are buying or developing family-type farms through the agency's farm ownership program are colored farmers.

The figures go on to show that colored farmers comprise about 9 per cent of the 3,100 farm owners of the South that have been aided in 1950 in the new farm housing program which provides long-term credit for construction or repair of houses and farm buildings.

Thousands Now Own Homes

FHA officials say that many former tenants and sharecroppers who received loans from the Farmers Home Administration now own their own land, either as a result of the farm ownership program or because they increased their incomes so much in the operating loan program that they were able to finance their land purchases without further credit from the agency.

A recent Achievement Day ceremony at Fort Valley State College, Ga., revealed that 6 colored farm families in that area were honord for paying up their farm-ownership obligations. It developed that about a third of the families had already paid out 40-year farm ownership loans since 1938. All of them were cited for improved use of land, better livestock practices, increased crop yields, extended sources of income, better living at home, wider educational opportunities for their children and debt repayment.

FHA says this is typical of w h a t is going on in the entire South these days.

Cited as an example of ideal accomplishment was that of Booker J. Johnson of Baldwin County who had purchased his farm in 1941; paid off his loan in full in eight years; increased the net worth of his property from $13 to $6,000; the cotton yield from 177 pounds to a bale per acre; and many other improvements.

WILLIAM H. SHELL administrative officer of Farmer's Home Administration, out of the Washington D. C. office, has been visiting in Texas for approximately two weeks, inspecting the farms upon which loans were made by his department, and also making lists in connection with certain leaders and others in the communities in which he has visited. Mr. Shell left for Washington last week, saying that he was very much pleased with what he had found on his tour.

1b 1951

Farmers' Conference - (Alabama A.& M. College)

42nd Annual Conference

Ala. A. & M. Is Host To Farmer's Meet

Courier Post 2-24-51

Pittsburgh, Pa.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—A large number of farmers recently attended the forty-second annual Farmers' Conference at Alabama A. and M. College. Conference women participated and gave demonstrations in home economics.

In the clothing section, demonstrations were conducted by members of the department staff in the use of sewing machine attachments, pattern alterations, stenciling and block printing.

Demonstrations were carried on also in the purchase and use of household equipment. In addition to members of the home economics staff, a representative from a large manufacturer showed farm women how to use the deep freeze unit to good advantage in the home.

ANIMAL SHOW HELD

Activities in the agricultural department included demonstrations in testing for pullorum in chickens, pruning and spraying fruit trees, cutting, wrapping and storing beef, proper milking with machine milker, wire-stretching, and post-peeling, the latter by a TVA representative.

In an effort to stimulate improvement in dairy herds in North Alabama, the department of agriculture at the college sold three Jersey and three Hereford bulls to farmers. All animals were registered.

Farmers gathered in the college auditorium in the afternoon to hear an address by President Harry V. Richardson of Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, who spoke on a "New Day" in farming.

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Fourteen farmers were given certificates for having produced more than 100 bushels of corn per acre. They were as follows:

L. G. Orr, 133; Erskine Orr, 130, and Marion Boyd, 150.8, of Morgan County.

Tilus Garth and Henry Nash 100 each, of Lawrence County.

Fred Murray, 122 and Fennely Jones, 130 of Limestone County.

Jesse G. Rhodes, 117; Robert L. Haney, 138, and William Bulls Jr., 107, of Lauderdale County.

Harry Jones, 115; Frank Jacobs, 130; William Harris, 141, and Houston Conley, 136, of Madison County.

Certificates were given also to Raymond Hollis and Hansel Walker of Lamar County, who completed the three-week farmers' short course with began at the college, Jan. 16.

Group Of Young Negro Farmers In Florida Buy 2,000 Acre Tract

HAMILTON COUNTY, Fla. — Within the last five years, 22 young colored tenant farmers, most of them veterans, of Hamilton County, Fla., have purchased a 2000 acre tract of cutover land in the West Lake community.

A report of the purchase was received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from District Agent J. A. Gresham of the Florida State Extension Service.

The tract has been divided into plots ranging in size from 40 to 120 acres, and the young farmers have worked cooperatively in clearing the land with axes, tractors, and bulldozers.

With money saved while serving in the armed forces, the veterans either made the down-paymnt or paid in full for the land. County Agent N. H. Bennett encouraged the men to confer with the lumber company owner of the land about selling it. The firm agreed to sell the young tenants 2,000 acres at a price ranging from $5 to $10 an acre.

Prior to this purchase, most of the land in the West Lake community was operated by tenants. Families of the few colored owners in the area piled up on one another, barely eking out an existence.

Today, many of the new owners have built homes and are raising good crops. They raise cotton, tobacco, peanuts, corn, hogs, and cattle. While the land is not highly productive, the young farmers are building up its fertility by plowing under legumes and using commercial fertilizer.

Among those who own over 100 acres are Maceo Howell, Jack Briston, Amos Clay, Joe Bell, L. W. Fletcher, and Grover Smith.

Veteran Growing Into Cattle Farming Now Grossing $5,000

OCALA, Fla.—A 36-year-old veteran is growing into cattle farming, but he is also making a good living raising hogs and truck crops while he expands his beef herd, says District Agent J. A. Gresham of the Florida State Extension Service in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The veteran is Earl Ward of Ocala, Fla., an ordnance maintenance technician with the 92nd Division in the European thearte during World War II. "After two years overseas, the quiet of a farm seemed mighty good to me," says Mr. Ward.

And although he worked in a garage before the war, he headed straight for the farm upon his return, rented 30 acres and began raising hogs, corn, and peanuts. This year, the veteran expects to gross about $5,000, complete payment on his 204-acre farm and finish his modern $6,000 concrete block rambler.

Mr. Ward' s principal truck crops are okra, tomatoes, stringbeans, and squash. These alone are expected to bring nearly $3,000 this year, receipts from his hogs and peanuts, he figures willl add about $2,000 more.

But the real crop he is counting on -- not this year, of course, or next, but four or five years from now—is cattle. He has nine head now of which six are brood cows. By using a purebred Hereford bill, he plans to build up a quality beef herd.

"You see, I don't know much about cattle raising," says the veteran, "so I am going into it gradually—sort of growing into it.If I make any mistakes, they'll be small ones."

County Agent Eugene P. Smith and Vocational Teacher W. T. Anderson are advising him on herd improvement and pasture development. He is taking on-the-farm-training under Mr. Anderson.

Already, the veteran is well on the way with his hog program. He got it started this first year as a tenant when he bought four brood sows and planted most of the 30 acres he rented to peanuts and corn to be hogged off. He sold 36 hogs that year for $1,500.

This year, Mr. Ward has 37 acres of peanuts and 10 acres of corn to be hogged off by his crop of 60 pigs. There are 10 extra acres of peanuts for harvesting. "I ought to get five or six tons," he estimates.

Although the veteran is still plowing his fields with a mule and a horse, he is building his family a modern home. "After a day's work on my farm, I want to be comfortable," he says, "I'll get around to a tractor, perhaps next year."

While in the armed forces, Mr. Ward saved up $1,800. Out of this, he paid $590 down on his farm, after renting part of the land for a couple of years. A few months after making the down-payment, he added $1,000 more by selling some of the timber off the place. This cut his indebtedness on the $4,080 farm to $2,390. Within the last two years, he has reduced that the $390. "I expect to clean that up this fall," the veteran says. And Mrs. Ward feels sure he will. They were married in 1942 and have two children.

Mr. Ward was reared on a tenant farm, but he got as far as the 9th grade in school. He has his plans all figured out. "It may take me a few years to really get going, but I'll make it. I am going to be a first rate livestock farmer."

FARM LOAN PAID OFF LONG BEFORE IT'S DUE

(The Associated Press)

Lake City, Fla., Dec. 3 — The first Negro farmer in Florida to get a loan to buy a farm through the Farmers Home Administration has paid off the loan — 28 years ahead of schedule.

Flem J. Jones, 66, the Columbia county farmer who accomplished this, was presented with the mortgage and deed to his 180 acre farm at a ceremony here.

Jones, a renter and sharecropper 30 years, is the father of nine children. His main cash crops are tobacco, turpentine pine gum from his 1500 pine trees, peanuts, sweet potatoes, cotton and hogs.

DREAM COMES TRUE. — State director William T. Shaddick of the Farmers Home Administration, presents mortgage and deed papers to Mr. and Mrs. Flem Jones, farm family of Columbia County, at public ceremony at Richardson high school in Lake City, Fla. Jones is the first Negro in the state to receive a loan for farm ownership from the Farmers Administration.

Dream Becomes Reality As Florida Farmer Gets Deed To 180 Acres

LAKE CITY, Fla.—The dream of a lifetime became a reality for Flem J. Jones, 66-year-old former tenant and sharecropper of Columbia county last week, when he received the mortgage and deed papers to his productive-180-acre farm from William T. Shaddick, state director, Farmers Home Administration, in a public ceremony held at Richardson High school. Four-H boys and girls, students, local farmers, State and national agricultural leaders attended.

Of FARMS and FARMERS

Jones, the first Negro in Florida to receive a farm ownership loan from the FHA, recently paid off his indebtedness to the government 28 years ahead of schedule. Speakers praised him for the adoption by his family of good farm and home management practices, wise use of money, thrift, hard work.

"This is a very happy occasion for me, as I know it must be for you," Shaddick said, as he presented the papers to Jones. "The FHA is just one effort on the part of our government to give assistance to farm families to help them get some of the good things of this life, such as owning a home, to educate their children, to participate in community affairs, and to become better citizens.

"We are not only a lending agency," Shaddick continued, "but an educational agency as well. I don't think it would have been possible for Flem Jones and his family to have paid off this loan in 12 years if they had spent their money for pleasures. They denied themselves many of the luxuries in order to realize their dream of a lifetime—farm ownership. And we hope that in the years ahead we will have the privilege of helping more Negro farmers not only in Columbia county but throughout the state of Florida."

Jones in response said, "this is one of the finest days of my life." He expressed his gratitude for having been given an opportunity to own his farm. And his pride at being the first of his race to receive a farm ownership loan was mixed with a deep humility and faith in God, without whose help, "I could never reach this day," he said.

Born in Columbia county not far from his present home, he had been a renter and sharecropper for some 30 years before he teamed up with the FHA. He and his wife, Mrs. Daisy Jones, are parents of nine living children, six girls and three boys. One son is now in the Army and he is proud of the fact that a daughter finished high school last year.

His main cash crops are tobacco, turpentine gum from his 1500 pine trees, peanuts, sweet potatoes, cotton and hogs. He believes in diversified farming. The family is active in community affairs.

The original loan was $4300 and his repayment schedule was $188 annually spread over a 40-year period. In order to pay out as quickly as possible he paid back large payments on his debt as he sold his crops. For example, last year he paid over $1,100 on his loan, which put him many years ahead of schedule.

Another paid-up borrower John Glee of Greenville, who paid off his farm ownership loan in only four years attended the ceremonies honoring Flem Jones, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Susie Glee. Other paid up borrowers in the State are Arthur and Uze Bradley of Jefferson county and George Thompkins of Madison county.

Other speakers who paid tribute to Flem Jones' achievement were: Marshall O. Watkins, Assistant Director, Florida Extension Service; Wendell A. Roberts, FHA County Supervisor, Columbia County; James A. Jones, Jr., FHA state field representative who was county supervisor at the time Jones received his loan; George Farnell, FHA county committeemen; A. L. Greene, principal of Richardson High school; L. Herbert Henegan of the FHA national office in Washington and McKinley Jeffers, county agent, who helped to sponsor the exercises.

HERE'S THE "OLD AND NEW" HOMES of the McMillians. The 10 children at home also enjoy the new farm residence which Mrs. McMillian takes pride in keeping attr[illegible] and neat. USDA Photo.

Florida Couple Suceeds With Tobacco, Live Stock

QUINCY, Florida — Elijah McMillian and his wife, Beatrice, have come a long way since they were sharecroppers in 1935, the year they applied for an operating loan from the Farmers Home Administration to buy a mule, some farm equipment, garden and field seed. They had depended on hogs, syrup, peanuts and a little cotton for cash income. "Lige", as his neighbors call him, had rented and sharecropped all his previous farming years and had just started operating a farm under his own management. He hadn't been too successful due to the lack of managerial experience, the depression and a health problem. But he was willing and eager to learn his ABC's of approved farm practices.

The guiding hand was that of John Fischer, County FHA Supervisor who began working with McMillian the year he received his first loan. He started, first of all, to produce most of the family food which meant a great deal in terms of family health as well as savings. Then he incorporated better farming practices by use of fertilizers, cultivation and approved seed varieties recommended by the Experiment Station. In 1938 he grew tobacco, the binder type, for the first time.

Bought Farm in 1942

McMillian had made steady progress with operating loans to the point where he was approved for a farm ownership loan in 1942 to buy 117 acres. It had sentimental value also because his mother was born on this farm in 1861.

He started growing tobacco in earnest in 1946-shade type-and now has successfully worked it into his farm enterprise which is largely livestock. A 20-acre pasture of pangola and costal bermuda grass is being developed which is expected to provide grazing eight months of the year. Oats, rye, millet and Dixie crimson clover will provide supplementary feed.

Last year Lige grew 15 acres of lupine and 10 acres of Florida W-1 hybrid corn and liked the results. This year he made 1,145 pounds of tobacco to the acre which was a little less than he made the year before due to exceptionally dry weather. But he is four and one-half years ahead of schedule in paying for his farm.

Son Wins Fat Cattle Prize

The McMillians are the parents of 12 children, 10 of whom live at home. Edmon, their 17-year-old son, has won first prize the last three years in the Gadsden County Colored Fat Cattle Show held at Quincy every March since 1946.

Mrs. McMillian keeps a neat and well-arranged home for the family. They moved out of the old home into the new dwelling five years ago. The lawn is well kept, trimmed with ornamental shrubs and shade trees.

Everything is being done to encourage interest of the children in farming. "I want them to love this place," the father says, "and if I can get them to feel that way, they'll want to stay and help keep on making it beter."

Other Negro families in the county who are also making outstanding progress in the program administered by the Farmers Home Administration include Luther, Childs, and John B. Smith; Ben Brown, Reuben Jordon, Kenlaw Gauss and Perry Reed. Childs and John Smith are sons of Luther Smith.

Altogether 11 white and Negro families in Gadsden County have bought farms through the Government program. They have 40 years to repay the loan. One family has already paid out in full within 12 years. Other families have used operating loans to develop farming abilities and have bought farms outside the program.

Of one thing Elijah McMillian says he is sure. "My children are going to have a good home and farm if they want to stay."

MR. AND MRS. ELIJAH McMILLIAN go over their farm and home plans on the front porch of their comfortable new home on Route 1 near Quincy, Florida. Sharecroppers 15 years ago they have purchased their farm through a loan from the Farmers Home Administration and are today successful growers of shade tobacco and livestock. USDA Photo.

Group Of Young Negro Farmers In Florida Buy 2,000 Acre Tract

HAMILTON COUNTY, Fla. — Within the last five years, 22 young colored tenant farmers, most of them veterans, of Hamilton County, Fla., have purchased a 2000 acre tract of cutover land in the West Lake community.

A report of the purchase was received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from District Agent J. A. Gresham of the Florida State Extension Service.

The tract has been divided into plots ranging in size from 40 to 120 acres, and the young farmers have worked cooperatively in clearing the land with axes, tractors, and bulldozers.

With money saved while serving in the armed forces, the veterans either made the down-paymnt or paid in full for the land. County Agent N. H. Bennett encouraged the men to confer with the lumber company owner of the land about selling it. The firm agreed to sell the young tenants 2,000 acres at a price ranging from $5 to $10 an acre.

Prior to this purchase, most of the land in the West Lake community was operated by tenants. Families of the few colored owners in the area piled up on one another, barely eking out an existence.

Today, many of the new owners have built homes and are raising good crops. They raise cotton, tobacco, peanuts, corn, hogs, and cattle. While the land is not highly productive, the young farmers are building up its fertility by plowing under legumes and using commercial fertilizer.

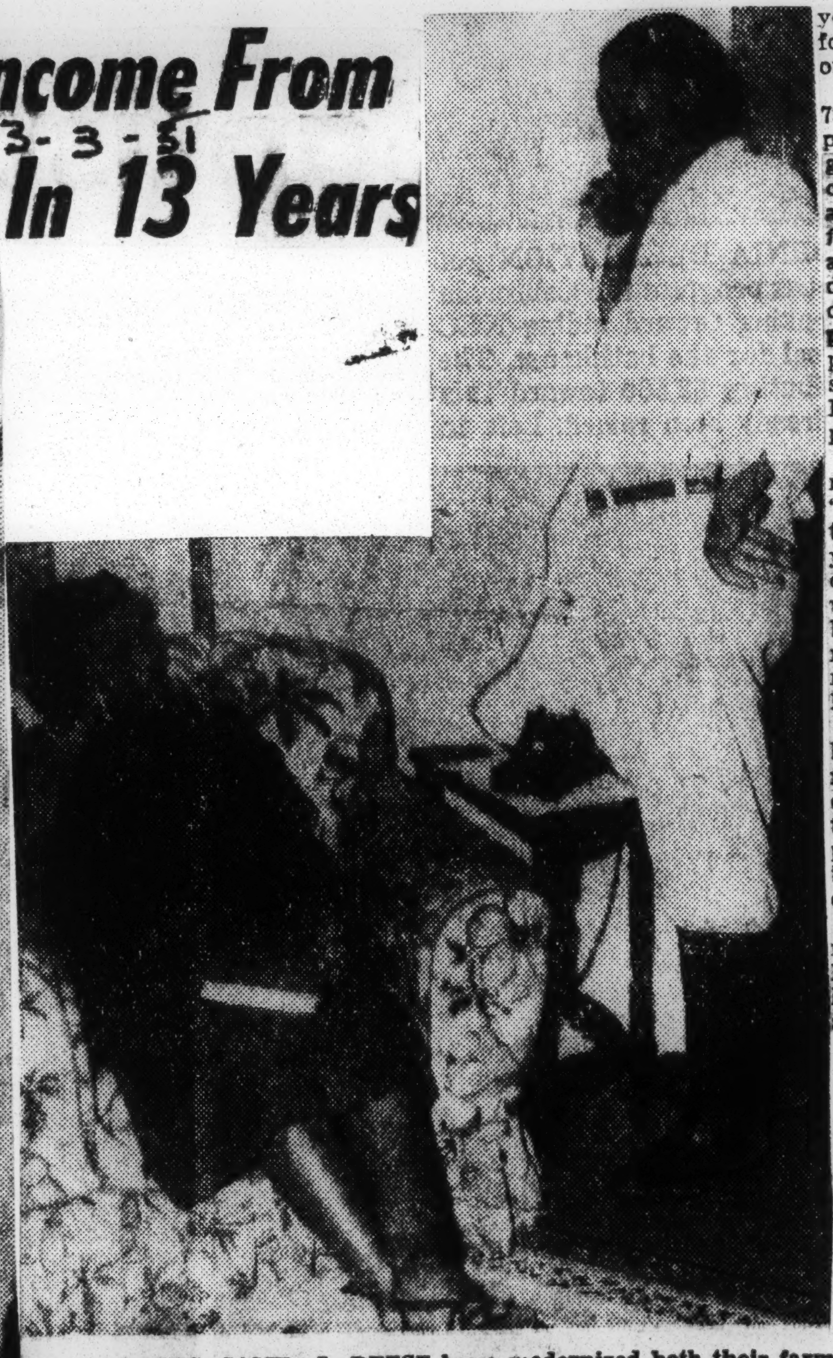
Among those who own over 100 acres are Maceo Howell, Jack Briston, Amos Clay, Joe Bell, L. W. Fletcher, and Grover Smith.

Georgia Farmer Hikes Income From $5,000 To $20,000 In 13 Years

Defender Sat. 3-3-51

FARMS and FARMERS

"ANY WAY YOU LOOK at it, blue lupine means cash in my pocket," says James L. Reese (center) of Millen, Ga., to State Extension Agent P. H. Stone (left) and County Agent E. R. Gay (right). "If I harvest the seed, they bring me nearly $80 a ton; if I plow the lupine under, it improves my land and increases my yields of cotton and corn," Reese points out.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES L. REESE have modernized both their farm and their home, including the installation of electricity, running water and a telephone. The Reeses operate a 317-acre diversified farm which grosses nearly $20,000 each year.—USDA photos.

MILLEN, GA.—By fitting cotton into a balanced farming program and enriching his soil, James L. Reese, a local former, has increased the gross income of his farm from $5,000 to nearly $20,000 annually.

P. H. Stone of the Georgia State Extension Service told the story of the unusual success of Reese in a report sent last week to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Reese, who lives near the screen setting of "Gone With the Wind," took over his father's 317-acre farm in 1929. Continuing in the traditional pattern, he went into debt in the 30's trying to make cotton carry the whole farm load.

Succeeds With Corn

Then one day in 1935, he attended a corn production demonstration conducted by his county agent. There he was convinced that he could increase his own corn yield which then stood at about 12 bushels per acre.

By adopting the practices recommended by his agent Reese increased his corn yield to 30 bushels per acre within a few years. This provided enough corn for his workstock and a couple of extra litters of pigs for market.

By 1946 he was selling 50 to 75 hogs a year and his cropping program was highly diversified. It called for 50 acres of oats, 50 of Crowder peas, 40 of corn, 80 of cotton, and 17 of peanuts. The rest of the farm was in woodland and pasture for his hogs and a few head of cattle. These brought him, his brother, and four tenants nearly $20,000 in 1943, and it has averaged near that figure during four of the last six years.

Take Chance on Legume

Three years ago, his county agent, E. R. Gay, and his local committeeman of the Production and Marketing Administration finally got him to agree to plant a few acres to the recently introduced legume, blue lupine, in order to help increase the seed supply for the South. Reluctantly, he planted 18 acres to lupine with seed supplied him through the PMA at the rate of two cents per pound, or a total cost of $40.

"That was the best $40 investment I ever made," says Reese. "The legume not only improved the 18 acres and increased the yield of a late crop of corn grown on them after the lupine was harvested, but the sale of lupine seed brought me close to $2,000. The money came in handy too, since my cotton crop was short."

Proud Of His Blue Alpine

He used part of the money to buy some time. To show his appre-for some time. To show his appreciation to blue lupine, he painted the truck blue and named it "Lupine". Mr. Reese also owns two tractors, a combine, and a seed drill.

In the fall of 1949 he needed no pursuading to plant more blue lupine. It was the first thing that he and his neighbors for miles around did after the cotton and corn were harvested.

"Now I plant enough to harvest about 20 tons of seed and some to turn under to fertilize my cotton and corn land," he says.

Blue Lupine has made Reese and his neighbors more conscious than ever of the need for soil building practices. "It practically doubled our yields of corn and peas last year," he boasts.

The farmers of Millen not only have a common interest in improving their land, but they also share in the ownership of some equipment, such as a peanut picker they bought through a cooperative they formed.

Mr. and Mrs. Reese have five children. Three are at home and two live in other communities.

They reside in Reese's parents' home place which has been modernized, including the installation of lights, running water, and telephone. "We are building up our land so that our children and others in the family who may wish to farm will be able to make a good living," they pointed out.

BLUE LUPINE BRINGS CASH "Any way you look at it, blue lupine means cash in my pocket," says James L. Reese, center, of Millen, Ga., to state extension Agent P. H. Stone, left, and county Agent E. R. Gay, right. "If I harvest the seed, they bring me nearly $10 a ton; if I plow the lupine under it improves my land and increases my yields of cotton and corn," Mr. Reese points out. He is shown with one of the 400 bags of lupine he harvested last year. This is an important legume which was introduced in the South recently.—USDA Photo.

Farmer Ups Income To $20,000 Annually By Adopting Balanced Cropping Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — By fitting cotton into a ballanced farming program and enriching his soil, James L. Reese of Millen, Ga., has increased the gross income of his farm from $5,000 to nearly $20,000 annually, says P. H. Stone of the Georgia State Extension Service in a report received last week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Reese, who lives near the screen setting of "Gone with the Wind," took over his father's 317-acre farm in 1929. Continuing in the traditional pattern, he went into debt in the 30's trying to make cotton carry the whole farm load.

Then one day in 1935, he attended a corn production demonstration conducted by his county agent. There, he was convinced that he could increase his own corn yield which then stood at about 12 bushels per acre.

By adopting the practices recommended by his agent, Mr. Reese increased his corn yield to 30 bushels per acre within a few years. This provided enough corn for his workstock and a couple of extra litters of pigs for market.

By 1946, he was selling 50 to 75 hogs a year and his cropping program was highly diversified. It called for 50 acres of oats, 30 acres of Crowder peas, 40 of corn, 80 of cotton, and 17 of peanuts. The rest of the farm was in woodland and pasture for his hogs and a few head of cattle. These brought him, his brother, and four tenants nearly $20,000 in 1948, and it has averaged near that figure during four of the last six years.

Three years ago, his county agent, E. R. Gay, and his local committeeman of the Production and Marketing Administration finally got him to agree to plant a few acres to the recently introduced legume, blue lupine, in order to help increase the seed supply for the South. Reluctantly, he planted 18 acres to lupine with seed supplied him through PMA at the rate of two cents per pound, or a total cost of $40.

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Blue Lupine has made him and his neighbors more conscious than ever of the need for soil building practices. "It practically doubled our yields of corn and peas last year," Mr. Reese boasts.

The farmers of Millen not only have a common interest in improving their land, but they also share in the ownership of some equipment, such as for example, a peanut picker they formed a cooperative to buy.

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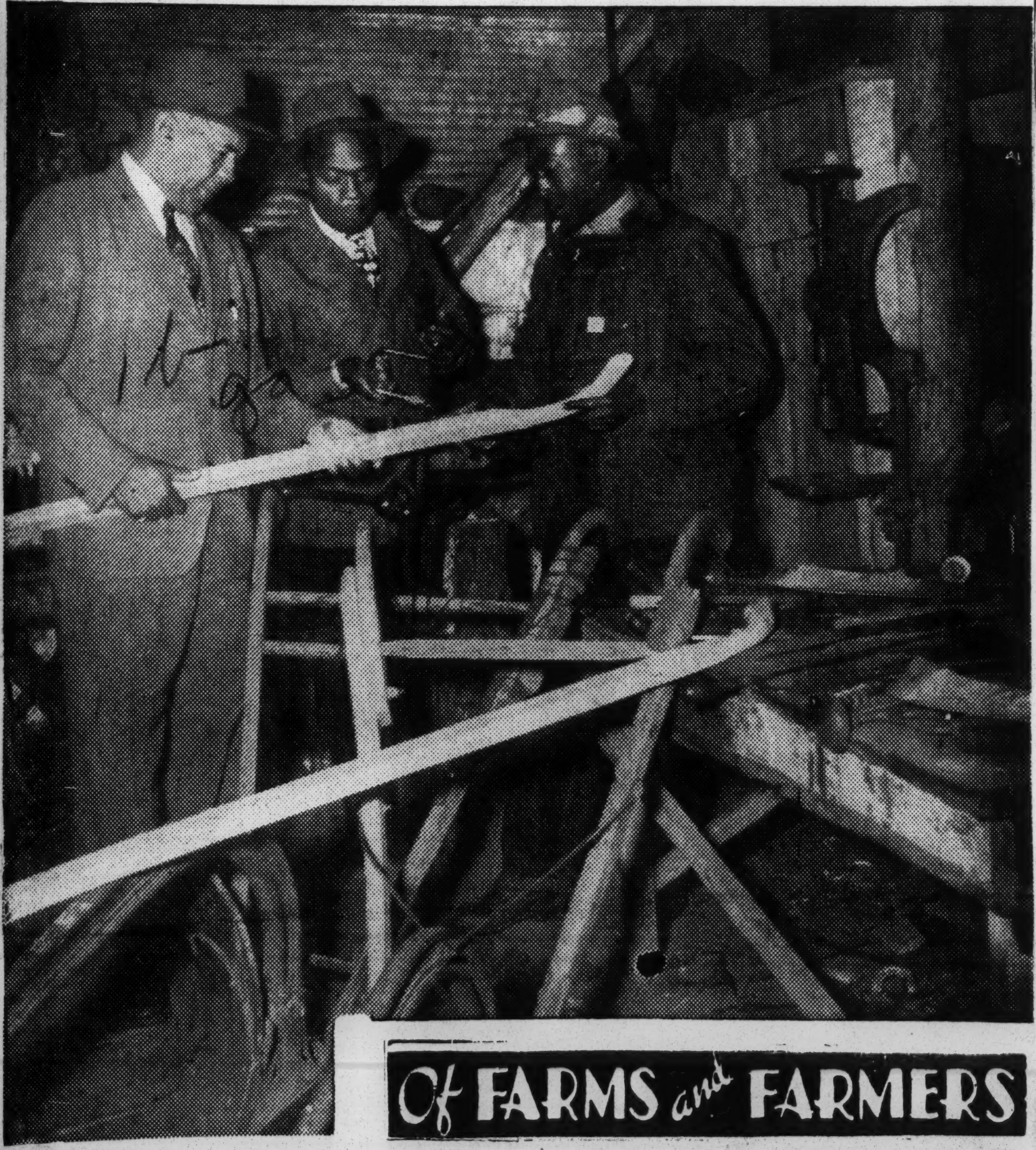
1 b 1951 Georgia

Farmer Emmett Hall Makes A Big Haul By Crop Planning, Budgeting



Of FARMS and FARMERS

THE HALLS OF DUBLIN, GA., find this farm shop a profitable wintertime sideline source of income. During this slack season, they repair their own and their neighbors' plows and other implements. Earl Hall, right, shows State Agent P. H. Stone, left, and County Agent Luther Coleman how he replaces a broken plowhandle.

DUBLIN, Ga. — Once Emmett Hall got a start toward a farm of his own through the Farmers Home Administration after 26 years of tenant farming, he not only paid out in five years, but went on to buy two additional farms.

A report of Hall's outstanding achievement was received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from P. H. Stone, state agent in charge of Negro extension work in Georgia.

"The secret," says Hall in the report, "is planning what you are going to raise, raising more than one crop, keeping yields high by taking care of your land, and budgeting what you are going to spend."

And he gives credit to the Farmers Home county supervisor for getting him on the right track and to his county agent and his soil conservation district for helping to keep him there.

Former Sharecropper

Mr. and Mrs. Hall started out as sharecroppers in 1914. By the end of World War I, they owned a pair of mules and were cash renters. "But it seemed we could never save up enough to make the down payment on a piece of land," says Hall.

"Of course, we had children coming along all the time — eight of them — and it took a lot to keep them fed and clothed."

In 1939, the Halls applied to the Farm Security Adminsistration (now the Farmers Home Administration) for a loan to buy a farm The next year. they got their loan and bought a 150-acre hilly farm near Dublin.

However, by carrying out the conservation practices recommended by a Soil Conservation Service technician assigned to the Central Georgia Coastal Plain District, they increased their yields of cotton, corn and peanuts, and upped their earnings. Among the practices applied was the building of 30,000 feet of terraces to help halt erosion.

Pay Off Loan

By 1945, they had paid off their loan from FHA, reducing their repayment by 35 years. But 150 acres weren't enough, thought Hall. After all, there were eight children, and most of them wanted to farm. So, he arranged to buy a 40-acre farm nearby. That paid for, he looked around for another buy. Two years ago, he bought a 150-acre farm in their community.

Already a partnership has been formed and the two married sons are farming with their parents. "I still need more land," says Hall, "for the other children who may wish to stay on the farm when they grow up."

And he feels like venturing again, since the family is out of debt with all three farms paid for. He is casting about for another piece of land. Says he thinks about 600 acres will be enough to split up among his children.

Use Land Wisely

The Halls put their land to good use, too. Last year, they planted 125 acres to corn, 30 acres to cotton, 20 acres to peanuts, three to sweetpotatoes, two to sugar cane for syrup, and a half acre in the home garden. The rest of their 340 acres are in woodland and kudzu and lespedeza pastures.

Their corn crop is not only a major cash enterprise, but it also provides for the eight head of workstock, five cows, 50 hogs and 70 chickens. Another important source of income is their farm shop in which they repair their own tools and those of the neighbors.

"Our garden earns a lot for us, too," says Mrs. Hall. "We don't sell much out of it, but it saves us trips to the store and money in our pockets."

Knew What They Wanted and Got It

Former Tenant Family Now Owners of 3 Farms

WASHINGTON—Once Emmett Hall of Dublin, Ga., got a start toward a farm of his own through the Farmers Home Administration, after twenty-six years of tenant farming, he not only paid out in five years, but went on to buy two additional farms. A report of Mr. Hall's outstanding achievement was received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from P. H. Stone, state agent in charge of extension work in Georgia.

"The secret," says Mr. Hall in the report, "is planning what you are going to raise, raising more than one crop, keeping yields high by taking care of your land, and budgeting what you are going to spend."

CREDITS SUPERVISOR

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Among the practices applied was the building of 30,000 feet of terraces to help halt erosion.

By 1945, they had paid off their loan to FHA, reducing their payment by thirty-five years. But 150 acres wasn't enought, thought Mr. Hall. After all, there were eight children, and most of them wanted to farm. So, he arranged to buy a forty-acre farm nearby. That paid for, he looked around for another buy. Two years ago, he bought a 150-acre farm in their community.

Already a partnership has been formed and the two married sons are farming with their parents. "I still need more land," says Mr. Hall, "for the other children who may wish to stay on the farm when they grow up."

And he feels like venturing again, since the family is out of debt with all three farms paid for. He is casting about for another piece of land. Says he thinks about 600 acres will be enough to split up among his children.

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In Henry County

Ham 'n' Eggs Show Very Successful

McDONOUGH, Ga. — James Miller, 16-year-old Henry County 4-H Club member, and Jesse J. Nutt, young World War II veteran-farmer, were top winners last week in the fourth annual Ham and Egg Show here.

The event, held at the County Training School, presented a platform loaded with choice smoked hams, sausage, canned pork and eggs of every description. Henry County Kiwanis Club member Cam Mitchell of Hampton, bought the "champion" ham for above $1 per pound.

Nutt had entered two previous shows, but by improving the breeding of his hogs walked away with one of the top prizes. Miller credited the 4-H Club Pig Chain with his victory.

Principal address on the occasion was delivered by Prof. B. F. Bullock of Atlanta University, who advised the farm families to stay on the land and produce for security of themselves and their nation. Success of the show was credited to County Agent Clarence Williamson.

O'Neal Ends Devoted Career With Ham, Egg Show Movement

BY MARION E. JACKSON

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — (SNS) — Otis Samuel O'Neal, founder and originator of the Ham and Egg show movement, ended his long and devoted career to agriculture, at the conclusion of the 36th annual show at Fort Valley State College.

Mr. O'Neal went into retirement along with Mrs. Margaret Toomer.

For Mr. O'Neal the success of the show is a dream that came true. It was back in 1914 that he conceived the idea and since then has watched it grow into a national institution.

Mr. O'Neal began his career as a county agent in Houston County (now Peach and Houston) for the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service. His tenure of service rivals that of the agency itself. It was in 1914 that Congress approved the Smith-Liebert Law and O'Neals service parallels that of the agency.

His first official task was to make a survey of farms and homes in the county and to see the living conditions and to determine the problems and needs of the families.

Out of this survey came the first Ham and Egg show which was held February 1, 1916. Thirty-seven poorly trimmed, ragged pieces of meat and seven dozen eggs were on display.

His first show attracted the attention of the late W. T. Anderson, editor of the Macon Telegraph, who became the show's biggest booster.

In subsequent yaers, O'Neal's dream attracted universal recognition with such magazines as Life, Coronet and Reader's Digest and radio networks covering the show.

The greatest monument to his faith in his people and his work are the Ham and Egg show at Fort Valley and the smaller shows over the state of Georgia.

Made Farming Pay

Ex-Sharecropper Now Owns Farm Of 100 Acres

Courier Sat 9-8-51

Paid for Holdings Within Nine Years After Loan From Federal Farm Bureau

Pittsburgh, Pa.

MAYFIELD, Ga.—A former debt-ridden sharecropper whom the Farmers Home Administration made a loan to buy a farm nine years ago, was named 1951 soil conservation champion of the South last week at nearby Log Cabin community.

The champion is Theodore Roddey of Catawba, S. C., to whom Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life, presented a check for $150 to climax the seventh annual "Soil Conservation Jamboree."

Runners-up in the South-wide contest were Edgar Smith, Walker Springs, Ala.; Alfonso Toney, Springfield, Ark.; McKinley Smith, Tallahassee, Fla.; Bishop Turner, Hilton, Ga.; Cliff Wilson, Bovina, Miss.; J. D. Robinson, Monroe, N. C.; A. C. Boone, Haskell, Okla.; J. R. Crawford, Jackson, Tenn.; Herman Crawford, Marshall, Tex.; Bruce Green, Dusputanta, Va. Each of these were named soil conservation champions of their respective states and were awarded $100 by the Country Life Association.

OWNS 100-ACRE FARM

Mr. Roddey, the South-wide champion, out-stripped the other contestants by converting a run-down, 100-acre, eroded farm into a highly productive farm unit. For example, when he took over the place, his cotton yield was only a third of a bale to the acre. Today he gets more than a bale to the acre.

The champion increased his yield by halting erosion with cover crops, strip-cropping, terraces and contour tillage, and by holding up the fertility of his land with legumes, lime, acid phosphate and ammonium nitrate which was furnished partly by the Production and Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Pastures as well as fields for row crops were improved with the help of PMA and Soil Conservation Service. Through the Catawba SCS district office, soil technicians were provided to give him technical assistance, including the making of a soil capability map of his whole farm.

Because much of his land was too poor for row crops, SCS technicians advised him to seed much of it to pastures and begin developing dairying as a side-line cash crop for his cotton. He started out with one cow. Today, he has eight good milkers that bring him a monthly milk check of $120.

HAS LARGE FAMILY

When Mr. Roddey applied to the Farmers Home Administration for a loan to buy a farm of his own in 1942, the agency hesitated to approve it. "You see," the FHA county supervisor says, "he had a gang of kids, most of them too little to help much, and besides, he already owed $700 for seed, fertilizer and a pair of mules."

But the agency took the risk and loaned the Roddey family $3,650, which brought their total indebtedness to more than $4,000. This fall the conservation champion will pay the FHA the last $100 he owes and become a debt-free owner of his farm, thirty-one years ahead of schedule.

Not only has Mr. Roddey made a success of his farm, but he has helped many of his neighbors to halt erosion on their farms and increase their yields. Five years ago, he was chosen leader of his community soil conservation group.

SIX DIPLOMAS

Mr. and Mrs. Roddey aren't devoting all their time to crops and livestock. They are rearing their twelve children. Already six have been graduated from high school, and the other six are on their way toward such diplomas.

"The Farmers Home, Extension Service and Soil Conservation got us started on the right track," says Mr. Roddey. "We are deeply indebted to Mr. Wayman Johnson, assistant extension leader, and to Mr. E. P. Glasscock, district soil conservation supervisor."

GEORGIA NEGRO WINS IN SOIL CONSERVATION

Prizes Will Be Awarded At Jamboree Tomorrow

MAYFIELD, Ga., Aug. 23.—(AP)—Theadore Roddey of York County, S. C., home-owning father of 12 children, is the South's No. 1 Negro soil conservation farmer for 1951.

Roddey and 10 other outstanding Negro soil builders will be honored at the annual Southwide Soil Conservation Jamboree Saturday in the nearby Log Cabin community.

He will receive a $150 prize from Benjamin F. Hubert, executive director of the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life. The others will receive $100 each as state winners.

The contest is sponsored by Hubert's organization and the Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors in 11 states.

Other winners include Edgar Smith of Walker Springs, Ala., Alfonso Toney of Springfield, Ark., Cliff Wilson of Bovina, Miss., J. R. Crawford of Jackson, Tenn.

The grand prize winner bought a 100-acre farm in the Liberty Hill community near York, S. C., in 1942. He already owed $700 and the farm brought his debt to $4260. He had 40 years to pay but he already has wiped out all but less than $100 of the debt.

He also has sent six of his children through high school and expects to give the other six the same advantage.

Roddey planted meadow strips and built terraces at the start but he says that what really launched him on solid building was his election in 1946 as leader of community soil building work.

"I realized," he explained, "that in order to be the leader, I would really have to lead out in soil conservation on my own farm."

So he got busy. He began contour strip cropping, planted Winter cover crops, limed, fertilized and seeded permanent pastures, and practiced selective cutting and fire protection of his woods. Sericea lespedeza, a deep-rooted perennial, was planted as a permanent hay or grazing crop on thin uplands.

It all began to pay off. Cotton yields climbed from a third to more than a full bale to the acre, corn from 14 to 20 bushels an acre and oats from 19 to 40.

In his steady rise to independence, the Negro farmer developed a simple credo.

"My desire," he said, "has always been to plan, work and pray, and to build my soil for the future day. What I desire for myself, I also desire for all my people."

Father Of 12 Is Top Negro Saver Of Soil

Alabamian Among South-Wide Winners

MAYFIELD, Ga., Aug. 23 (AP)—Theadore Roddey of York County, South Carolina, home-owning father of 12 children, is the South's No. 1 Negro soil conservation farmer for 1951.

Roddey and 10 other outstanding Negro soil builders will be honored at the annual South-wide soil conservation jamboree tomorrow in the nearby Log Cabin community.

He will receive a $150 prize from Benjamin F. Hubert, executive director of the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country life. The others will receive $100 each as state winners.

In 11 States

The contest is sponsored by Hubert's organization and the Association of Soil Conservation, District Supervisors in the 11 states.

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His Methods

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Named "Soil Conservation Farmer For '51" In South

Wored. Tri. 8-24-51 Atlanta Ga.

MAYFIELD, Ga. — (SNS) — The father of 12 children in nearby York County, South Carolina, is recognized as the South's Number One Negro farmer. He is Theodore Roddy who built his farm carefully with approved soil-conservation methods.

He will be honored, along with ten other Negro farmers who successfully practiced soil-conservation, at an annual "Soil Conservation Jamboree" which will draw Negro farmers from all over the south.

The contest was sponsored by Benjamin F. Hubert acting as executive director of the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life. Mr. Hubert will present Mr Roddy with a check for $150. The ten other winners, each representing a state, will receive checks in the amount of $100.

They are: Edgar Smith, Walker Spings, Alabama; Alfonso Toney, Springfield, Arkansas; McKinley Smith, Tallahassee, Florida; Bishop Turner, Hilton, Georgia; Cliff Wilson, Bovina, Missisippi; J D Robinson, Monroe, North Carolina; A. C. Boone, Haskel, Oklahoma; J. R Crawford, Jackson, Tennessee; Herman Crawford, Marshall, Texas and Bruce Green, Disputanta, Virginia.

Co-sponsors of the south-wide project were the Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors in the states mentioned who cooperated with Mr. Hubert.

Mr. Roddy started on his career when he bought a 100-acre farm near York, South Carolina in 1942. With 40 years to pay off an accumulated debt of $4,260, he has just about completely liquidated it.

Six of his 12 children have finished high school and the home has been improved continually since its original purpose.

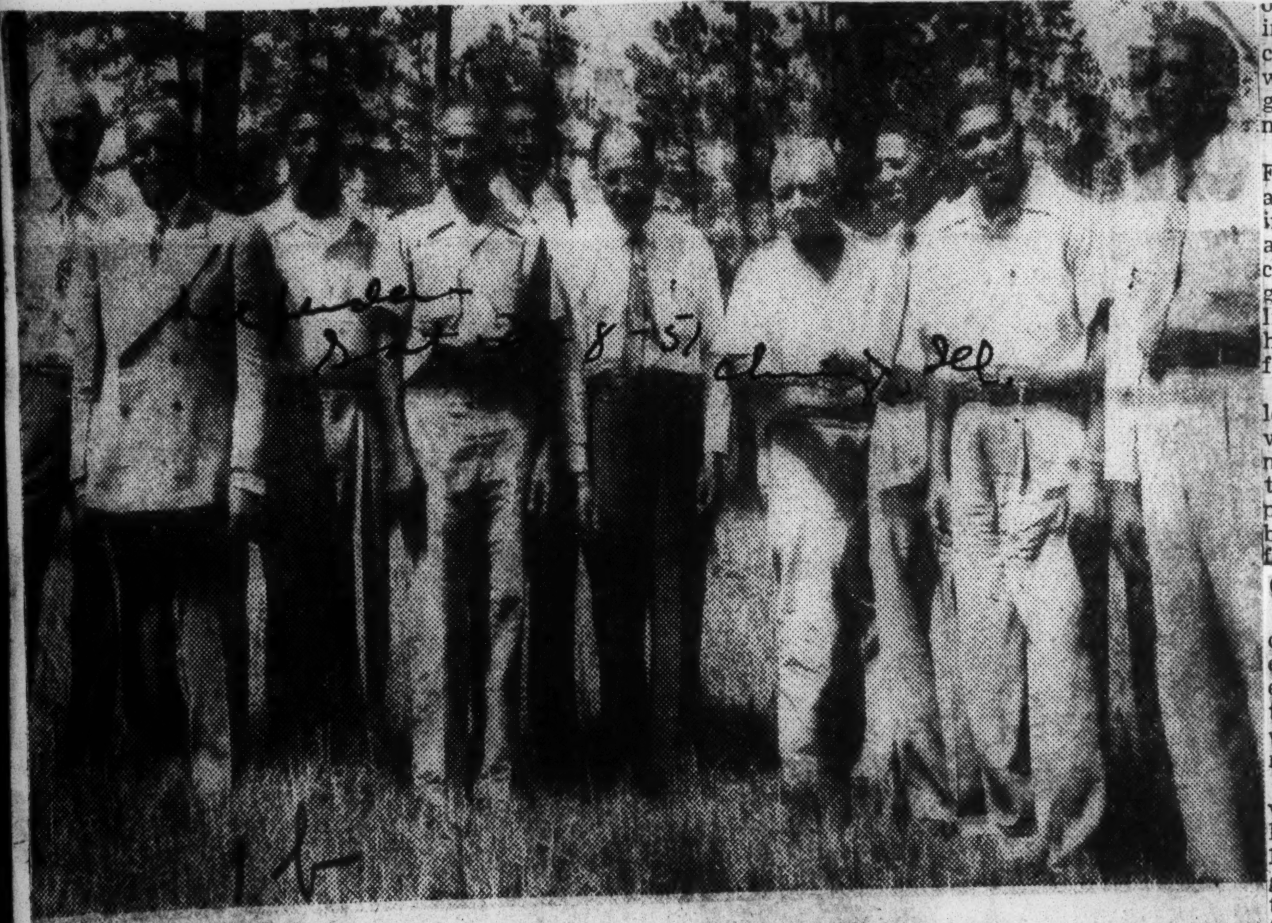
Roddy's farming methods were especially note-worthy. With little assistance, he terraced and meadow-stripped his farm as a soil conservation measure. Then, in 1946, when he was appointed the leader of the community soil-building program, he seriously started to work.

He said: "I realized that in order to be the leader, I would really have to lead out in soil conservation on my own farm."

His plans included winter cover crops, contour strip croppipng, limed, fertilized and seeded permanent pastures and selective cutting and fire protection for his wooded land.

With the idea that "if you are good to your land, your land will be good to you," Roddy realized outstanding gains from his modern methods.

He also gave credit for his rise and the rise of other small farmers to the Farmers Home Administration, the Extension Service, the District Supervisors, the Soil Conservation Service and other agencies.



SOIL CONSERVATION CHAMPION Theodore Roddy (4th from right) and Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, executive director, National Association of Negro Country Life, poses with state champion runners up at Log Cabin jamboree. Left to right: Edgar Smith, Walker Springs, Ala.; Alfonso Toney, Springfield, Ark. Farm manager for McKinley Smith, Florida winner, Tallahassee, Fla.; Bishop Turner, Hilton, Ga.; Cliff Wilson, Bovina, Miss.; J. D. Robinson, Monroe, N. C.; Dr. Hubert, Mr. Roddey, J. R. Crawford, Jackson, Tenn.; Bruce Green, Disputanta, Va.; and Herman Crawford, Marshall, Texas.

Former Debt-Ridden Sharecropper Wins 1951 Soil Conservation Title

MAYFIELD, Ga.—The 1951 soil conservation champion of the South is Theodore Roddey of Catawba, S. C., a former debt-ridden sharecropper, to whom the Farmers Home administration made a loan to buy a farm nine years ago.

Roddey was presented a check for $150 by Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life, recently to climax the seventh annual Soil Conservation Jamboree. He was named winner at nearby Log Cabin community.

Runners-up in the Southwide contest were: Edgar Smith, Walker Springs, Ala.; Alfonso Toney, Springfield, Ark.; McKinley Smith, Tallahassee, Fla.; Bishop Turner, Hilton, Ga.; Cliff Wilson, Bovina, Miss.; J. D. Robinson, Monroe, N. C.; A. C. Boone, Haskell, Okla.; J. R. Crawford, Jackson, Tenn.; Herman Crawford, Marshall, Tex.; Bruce Green, Disputanta, Va. Each of these were named soil conservation champions of their respective State and were awarded $100 by the Country Life association.

Converts Run-Down Farm

Roddey, the Southwide champion outstripped the other contestants by converting a run-down 100-acre eroded farm into a highly productive farm unit. For example, when he took over the place, his cotton yield was only a third of a bale to the acre, today he gets more than a bale to the acre.

The champion increased his yield by halting erosion with cover crops, strip-cropping, terraces, and contour tillage, and by building up the fertility of his land with legumes, lime, acid phosphate and ammonium nitrate which was furnished partly by the Production and Marketing administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Pastures as well as fields for row crops were improved with the help of PMA and Soil Conservation service. Through the Catawba SCS district office, soil technicians were provided to give him technical assistance, including the making of a soil capability map of his whole farm.

Land Too Poor

Because much of his land was too poor for row crops, SCS technicians advised him to seed much of it to pastures and begin developing dairying as a side line cash chop for his cotton. He started out with one cow, today, he has eight good milkers that bring him a monthly milk check of $120.

When Roddey applied to the Farmers Home Administration for a loan to buy a farm of his own in 1942, the agency hestiated to approve it. "You see," the FHA county supervisor says, "he had a gang of kids, most of them too little to help much, and besides, he already owed $700 for seed, fertilizer, and a pair of mules."

But the agency took the risk and loaned the Roddey family $3,560, which brought their total indebtness to more than $4,000. This fall the conservation champion will pay FHA the last $100 he owes and become a debt-free owner of his farm, 31 years ahead of schedule.

Chosen Leader

Not only has Roddey made a success of his farm, but he has helped many of his neighbors to halt erosion on their farms and increase their yields. Five years ago, he was chosen leader of his community soil conservation group.

Mr. and Mrs. Roddey aren't devoting all their time to crops and livestock. They are rearing their 12 children. Already six have been graduated from high school, and the other six are on their way toward such diplomas.

"The Farmers Home, Extension service, and Soil Conservation got us started on the right track," says Roddey. "We are deeply indebted to Wayman Johnson, Assistant extension leader, and to E. P. Glasscock, district soil conservation supervisor."

CHAMP GETS $150 AND CONGRATULATIONS. —Theodore Roddey, right, who was named soil conservation champion of the South last week at the Log Cabin, Ga., Soil Conservation Jamboree, is shown receiving a check for $150 and a handshake of congratulations from Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life. Mr. Roddey won out over 10 State champions. He has a 100-acre farm at Catawba, S. C., which he purchased through the Farmers Home Administration.—USDA Photo.

Balance Farming On Enough Acres Seen As Key To Success By Fuhr

Balanced farming on sufficient acres is seen as key to success by Administrative Officer A. H. Fuhr of the U.S Department of Agriculture's Farm Credit Administration.

Mr. Fuhr's viewpoint is based on a limited survey he made of Negro farm families in 14 States. In several communities in these States, he conferred with above-average and below-average families who are financing their farming operations through loans from agencies supervised by the Farm Credit.

"It was my purpose", says Fuhr, "to try to find out some of the factors which help make farmers above-average, and those which contribute to failure."

Although many of the elements, such as native ability, educational opportunities, and start given by parents or others, affect the progress made by farmers, the FCA aide found that other factors also are having a great influence on the final outcome.

He points out that 90 percent of the above-average farmers he visited operate farms of 100 acres or more, and raise most of their own food and livestock feed. Most of these farmers also produce more than one crop for market. For many of them, the extra crops are beef cattle, swine, dairy products, or poultry.

Fuhr says that more that half the above-average farm families are using loans from their Production Credit Associations to improve their pastures, and are following sound soil conservation practices, such as crop rotation, planting winter legumes and cover crops, building terraces where needed, plowing slopes on the contour, and providing drainage for low areas in their fields. On the other hand, most below-average or unsuccessful colored farmers visited by the FCA official, are trying to eke out a living on farms that are too small. These farmers, he says, count on one crop, and neither grow a reasonable amount of their own food, nor adequate feed for such livestock as they have. Scarcely any of them are developing improved pastures, he points out.

Among the families visited were owners as well as tenants. "Some tenants are succeeding and some of the owners are failing", Fuhr asserts. "But the most pathetic cases", he adds, "are those of farmers with unused land who are borrowing money from their Production Credit Associations to buy food and feed."

The shortcomings of below-average farmers stem largely from their inability to get economic family-sized units, Fuhr says. For example, he points out that those with few acres are not rotating their crops, because they must put every acre into a cash crop, usually the same crop every year in order to pay off their debts.

"Thus the land becomes poorer and the farmer more impoverished year after year as the cycle continues", Fuhr concludes.

The States visited were Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

Agriculture Dept. Report

Negro Farm Managers Produce Materials Vital to the Nation

WASHINGTON—The South's 442 colored farm managers are helping to produce record crops this year, report Extension Field Agents T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

These managers, who have charge of 242,000 acres valued at more than $12,000,000, are directing the production of thousands of bales of cotton, millions of pounds of tobacco, many hundreds of tons of peanuts and thousands of heads of livestock, say the field agents. They report that many of these managers played an important role in this year's near-record cotton crop estimated at 17,291,000 bales.

Typical of the colored farm managers is Charles J. Strong, who supervises a 2,000-acre section of a plantation near Greenwood, Miss. He expects to harvest more than 1,000 bales of cotton —25 per cent more than last year. Also, he is shooting for 16,000 bushels of corn and 9,000 bushels of soy beans.

58 IN MISSISSIPPI

There are fifty-eight other colored farm managers in Mississippi. Of these, twelve manage between 1,000 and 5,000 acres; one manages between 5,000 and 10,000 acres.

Mr. Strong has been a manager on the O. F. Bledsoe plantation for twelve years. In this capacity he supervises the entire operation on a 2,000-acre tract. There are two other managers on the place, both white, who handle a similar acreage.

The 59-year-old manager rose up through the ranks from day laborer to his present post. Prior to his elevation to manager, he was for seventeen years a foreman, and before that, one of the best tenants on the place.

Working directly under him are more than fifty sharecroppers and hired hands. Most of the land, of course, is worked with the plantation's fleet of tractors.

Mr. and Mrs. Strong and their 11-year-old son, Nathaniel, live in a modern cottage on the plantation. Nathaniel is a 4-H'er, raising pigs as his chief project. But unlike many clubbers, he doesn't raise one or two pigs, but eight or ten. Says he wants to be a livestock farmer when he grows up.

Livestock Production On Marked Increase In South

By SHERMAN BRISCOE
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Livestock production by colored farmers in the South is increasing markedly along with the companion development of improved pastures.

I recently returned from a 10-day tour of Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina where almost every farmer I visited was either raising catle, or hogs, or both in addition to some other cash crop. The one-cow-on-a-stake, or pig-in-a-pen era seems to be passing.

The increased production of livestock by colored farmers as a source of income is in line with the emphasis which Extension Service and ohter Agriculture agencies are placing on diversification and soil improvement practices.

* * *

LIVESTOCK AND pastures are a natural for the worn out bottoms and eroded hillsides that make up a large part of some of the farms. Now many farmers who used to talk about killing grass and raising cotton have gone in for raising grass and reducing their cotton acreage. Although this year, most operators in the cotton region are increasing their acreage of that crop in order to help meet the Government's request for 16 million bales.

But farmers are not neglecting their grass; it's a part of almost every conversation. Fescue kobe lespedeza, dallis grass, rye grass, kudzu, ladino clover, and crimson clover are about as much a part of the farmers' vocabulary as cotton and corn.

And most of the farmers one meets are ready to discuss the merits of various legumes and winter cover crops such as oats, Austrian winter peas, hairy vetch, and blue lupine.

* * *

THESE FARMERS are thinking of grasses and soil building crops as indirect sources of income which will later take the form of cattle and hogs. When Alabama State Extension Leader W. B. Hill and I drove up to the home of Albert Ross of Haynesville, Ala., he said, "I have the prettiest pasture of Johnson grass and White Dutch clover you ever want to see. I am going to turn my cattle in on it in a couple of weeks. It'll cut my feed cost a lot."

Mr. Ross, a World War I veteran, saved up part of his $21-a-month pay and bought 80 acres of worn out cotton land upon his return home. Today, he owns 280 acres and 70 head of beef cattle, including a purebred Hereford bull. He and his son-in-law, Charley Scott, plan to concentrate on cattle and grass. His purebred bull is improving the quality of the herd.

Some colored farmers are even in the purebred business. In South Carolina, State Extension Leader E. N. Williams took me to visit Elley C. Fore of Marion who has 54 head of purebred Herefords on his 401-acre farm. A few weeks, ago, he got $1,800 for five registered yearlings he sold for breeding purposes.

* * *

CARROLL JONES of Epes, Ala., also is breeding Hereford cattle. He operates a $3,400 cotton and cattle farm. On his farm are about 300 brood cows.

In Florida, District Agent J. A. Gresham and I visited two farmers near Marianna who are definitey sold on cattle. Matthew Williams of the Springfield Community has 60 head of Hereford cattle and 90 Duroc hogs grazing in pastures on his 451-acre farm.

"When I got married in 1908," said Mr. Williams, "we didn't have a thing but an old mule my brother-in-law gave us as a wedding present." The Williamses now live in a modern stone home that cost $11,000; also, they have a tractor and a $2,500 barn.

* * *

THE OTHER Florida farmer we visited is Andrew H. Bowers, who owns 265 acres in the Liberty Hill community. He has a modern dairy with 23 Guernseys. His milk check averages $20 a day. Also, Mr. Bowers raises hogs, cotton, peanuts, and pine timber for market. He came out of the coal mines in the Birmingham area 25 years ago and began sharecropping in Liberty Hill, his birthplace.

In South Carolina, I visited Julian Durant of Manning, who is raising hogs as a sideline for his cotton and tobacco. "Three years ago," said Mr. Durant, "I sold only five hogs; this year I expect to sell 75." County Agent William Thompson has helped him provide good grazing for his swine. The hogs were grazing two acres of rape.

In all three states, livestock production is rising. The number of cattle and calves on farms increased by about 300,000 head during 1950. For the South as a whole, the number increased by two million, accounting for half the increase of the entire nation.

* * *

THE ALABAMA 4-H Fat Stock Show in Montgomery a few weeks ago, gave further indication of the part colored farmers are playing in the livestock production program of the South. The boys and girls exhibited 132 head of cattle and 300 hogs. This was about twice the number shown last year.

Extension workers everywhere expect the increased livestock production to accelerate the pace toward more satisfactory living standards in the rural South.

PEACH COUNTIANS PROUD OF SHOW — The 36th annual Ham and Egg Show at Fort Valley, Georgia, one of the biggest days in the city's year, gave some of Peach County's agricultural experts and educators a great deal of satisfaction. Above from left are: Mrs. Alma Johnson, Home Demonstration Agent, Peach County; Robert Church, County Agent, Peach County and Dr. C. V. Troup, president of Fort Valley State College.

36th Annual Ham & Egg Show Largest In History Of City

By MARION E. JACKSON

FORT VALLEY, Ga.—(SNS)—The 36th Annual Ham and Egg Show, bigger and better than ever before in history had to take a backseat when honors and tributes were bestowed upon veteran farm leader Otis S. O'Neal, originator and founder of the show, during a three-day exhibition of farm products at Fort Valley State College.

Leaders in the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, hailed O'Neal's achievement as a county agent, and cited his long and devoted career as a public servant.

This year's Ham and Egg Show was featured by 1,000 pieces of cured pork which included 600 cured hams, 300 cured shoulders, 100 sides of cured bacon, 200 quarts of canned pork, and 100 pounds of cured, smoked sausage and 200 dozen fresh, selected eggs.

This mammoth display, which formed a mouth-watering counter in front of the stage of the Fort Valley State auditorium's stage attracted thousands of visitors from Peach and Houston Counties and from other parts of the state and nation.

R. T. Church and Mrs. Alma Johnson did the spadework for this year's successful show. Other features of the Ham and Egg show were 4-H Club Parade, review of 1950 achievements, a pageant and folk festival and an evaluation of Ham and Egg shows held in Georgia with 21 county agents participating.

Dr. C. C. Murray, dean and director, University of Georgia College of Agriculture, was the keynote speaker in the absence of programmed speaker Dr. O. C. Aderhold, president, University of Georgia.

Major J. Amica was presented the Frank A. Young trophy by Dr. C. V. Troup of Fort Valley State for having been the longest exhibitor at the Ham and Egg show. Amica was cited for having been a renter when he met the originator of the show, but now owns 611 acres of good land, a home and two tractors. Amica has exhibited meat in each of the previous 35 shows, winning nine prizes.

Mrs. Susan Myrick, associate editor, The Macon Telegraph, praised the show as an "enduring monument to better farm living."

She gave a touching story of the tribulation of O'Neal in developing the show into a major farm event.

W. S. Brown, associate director, Extension Service, congratulated Peach and Houston Counties "for having the best Ham and Egg Show ever held."

He said out of such shows would come better homes, better churches and a higher stand of living." He traced the progress of the event from 1916 through World War I, the depression years, World War II and high inflation period brought about by the Korean War.

Brown said such farm events were good in the time of peace, hard times or good times.

Other speakers were K. C. Childers P. H. Stone, R P. Swan and Rev. J. E. Tackett, pastor of Trinity Baptist church.

At the closing session, speakers were Peyton Anderson, editor, Macon News; Alva Tabor, Vo-Ag Head Itinerant teacher, Fort Valley; C. L. Ellison, agriculture director, Fort Valley State H. E Bryant, principal Hunt High, Fort Valley; and Thomas Delton, soil conservationist, Fort Valley, State.

The Fort Valley State College choir rendered musical selections during the three-day meet.

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Home Demonstration Week

200,000 Rural Colored Women Have Reason To Observe HD

Over 200,000 rural colored women have a good reason to observe Home Demonstration Week, April 29 to May 5, say T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell, Extension Service field agents of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

They point out that the 410 colored home demonstration agents in the Southern region assisted $208,00 families in proving their homes, diets, and communities last year.

This is in line with the the theme of Home Demonstration Week, "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World." In a letter to the members of HD clubs, President Truman said that the theme is most appropriate. "I am glad that you are facing the realties and working together with the definite purpose of developing homes that reflect the highest ideals of democratic citizenship, he declared.

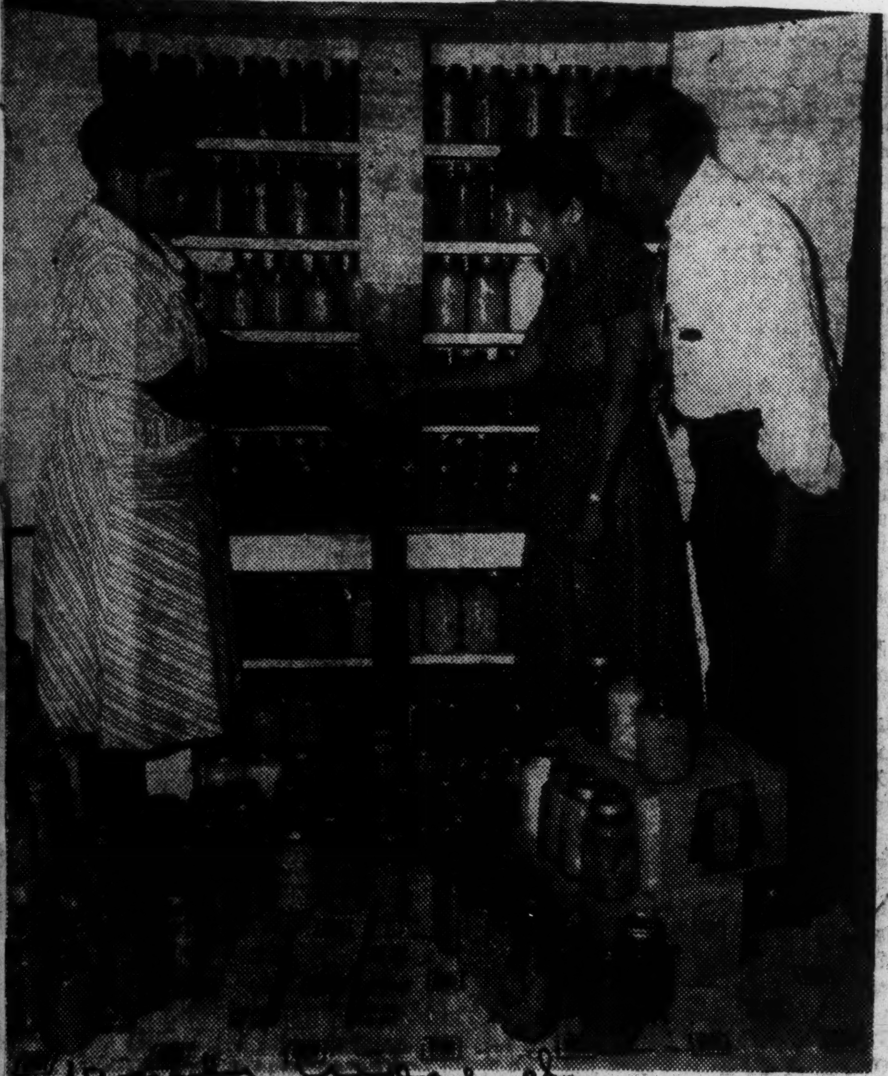
The President's letter was addressed to the members of the 57,500 Home Demonstration Clubs. Rural colored women make up the membership on 5,357 of these clubs. They constitute the channel through which the colored home agents work in helping to improve rural living.

The assistance of the agents ranges from encouraging home screening and consulation on family relations and child development problems to promotion of school lunches. Field agents Campbell and Mitchell point out, for example, that last year home agents assisted 30,000 families in improving their methods of repariring, remodeling, or refinishing furniture; and helped 166,000 with food preservation problems, and 87,000 with making and making-over clothing; also they assisted 34,000 families with relations problems, and aided, 1,473 schools in establishing or maintaining hot school lunches.

Volunteer leaders assist the agand in getting information to farm people. Last year, [illegible] such leaders worked with adult groups, and 18,000 worked with youths. Some of these groups purchase clothing and household supplies cooperatively and market some products together.

During Home Demonstration Week, the HD clubs which now have a membership of 137,000 will recruit new members, and call the attention of thousands of communities to the importance of home demonstration work in improving rural homes.

Of the 410 colored home agents and supervisors, 62 are in Mississippi, 57, in North Carolina, and 8, in Texas.



TO OBSERVE HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK — Among the thousands of farm women who will observe Home Demonstration Week, April 29 to May 5, is Mrs. Estellar Lewis, left, sharecropper of Moore Lake, Miss. She will help celebrate the week by calling the attention of the women in her community to the importance of food preservation. Mrs. Lewis is the No. 1 home canner of Moore Lake, and runner-up champion of Leflore County. Here, she is showing the county home demonstration agent, Mrs. Bessie R. Gay, and the State Extension leader, M. M. Hubert, her supply of home canned food. Last year, she canned 530 jars of fruits, vegetables, and meats. — (USDA Photo)

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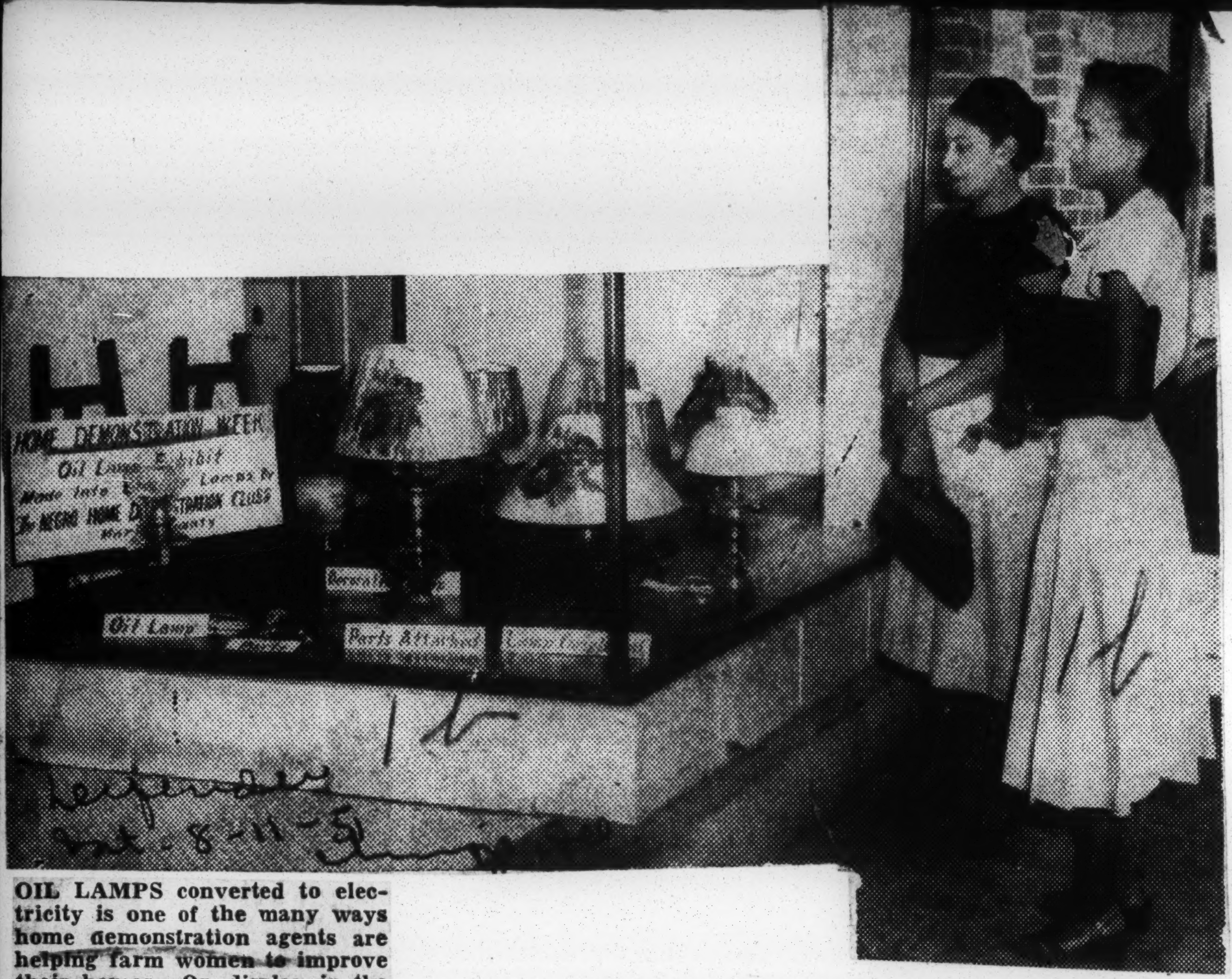
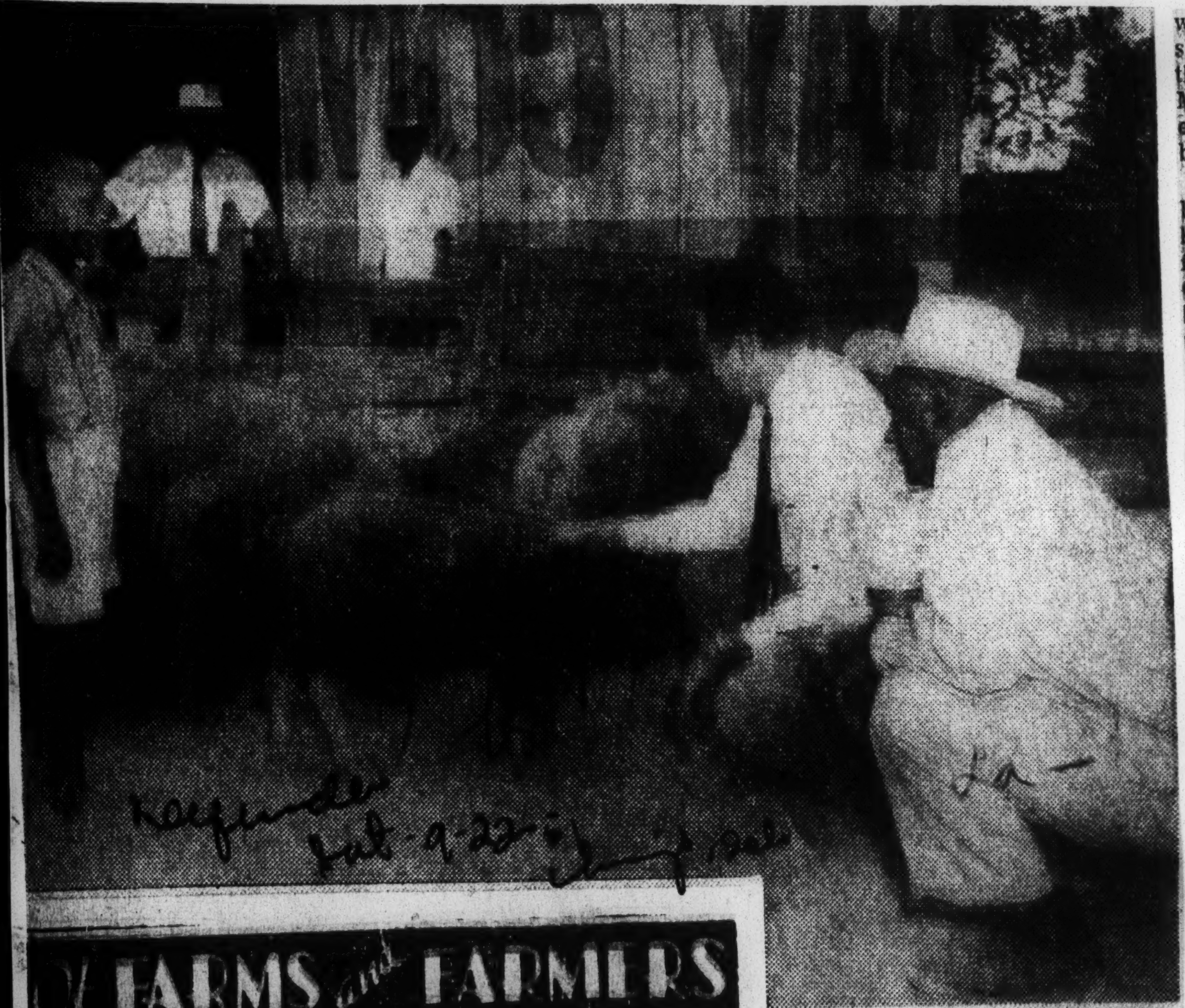


OIL LAMPS converted to electricity is one of the many ways home demonstration agents are helping farm women to improve their homes. On display in the downtown show window of the Carolina Light and Power office in Marion, S. C., are these beautiful electric lamps made over from old fashioned oil lamps by women of Marion county under the direction of their home agent, Mrs. Johnnie Mae Sloan. Looking at the exhibit are Mrs. Marian B. Paul, State supervisor of Negro home demonstration work, and Mrs. Sloan. USDA Photo.



FARMS and FARMERS

HOGS ARE IMPORTANT as a sideline on the farm of Joseph Garrett (foreground), 55-year-old farmer of Opelousas, La. Assistant State Agent R. J. Courtney gives Garrett some pointers on the conformation of quality porkers while Alex Thibedeaux, Garrett's grandson, County Agent Leon Robinson and Earl Milburn, neighbor, look on.

160-Acre Farm To Gross $14,000 Through Balanced Cropping System

OPELOUSAS, La.—A balanced cropping system of cotton, cattle, hogs, and sweet potatoes has brought success to Joseph Garrett, who, this year, is expecting a gross income of 14,000 from his 160-acre farm.

The announcement came from R. J. Courtney, assistant state agent, in a report to the U. S. Department of Agriculture last week.

"Improved pastures and better soil conservation practices," says Courtney, "account about as much for his success as the balanced cropping system he follows." within the last five years, Garrett has increased both his corn and cotton yield considerably by using winter cover crops. Land that used to produce only a little over 250 pounds of lint cotton per acre, now yields a full bale.

From 35 acres of cotton, Garrett is expecting 35 bales; from his 25 acres of corn, he says he will harvest close to 800 bushels; and his 35 acre sweet potato patch promises better than 3,000 bushels of yams.

In terms of cash returns, his cotton and sweet potatoes will bring close to $12,000. Add to this his receipts from cattle and hogs through which he markets his corn, and the total gross income will approach $14,000.

However, this has to be divided with five tenant families whose share will amount to about half the gross. But what means most to Mr. and Mrs. Garrett are the good eating and year-round income that balanced farming provides.

The Garretts haven't always been balanced farmers, neither have they had the kind of concern for their land that they now have. County Agent Leon Robinson has been the sparkplug for the new pattern of farming which the Garretts and their neighbors now follow.

Robinson has conducted numerous demonstrations designed to prove the value of soil building practices, pasture improvement, and diversified farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett started out as tenants on his father's farm 32 years ago. In 1925 his parents died and he took over the farm, increased its size and productivity. His father was having a good year when he got 12 bales of cotton and enough sweet potatoes and pork to last through the winter.

Today, sweet potatoes and hogs not only help provide good eating year-round, but also account for nearly half the income of the farm, and besides, there are 30 head of cattle.

The Garretts' major concern now is for still better pastures, more cattle, and hogs. Of course, they plan to continue growing cotton mostly to provide for their tenants, but each year they are cutting their own cotton acreage.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett live in an attractive bungalow with modern conveniences; under the shed are a tractor and a car, and in the smoke house hang hams and sides of bacon year-round.

TRUCK FARMER GROSSES $10,000 ON 14 ACRES

HELENA PARISH, La. — A truck grower who grosses over $10,000 annually off only 14 acres may have a formula for success which other small farmers could apply, say Officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The farmer is 35-yearold Samuel Freeman of St. Helena Parish, La., 60 miles from New Orleans. A report of his achievement was received last week by the Department from the Louisiana State Extension Service.

Atlanta Ga.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman started out as sharecroppers the next day after their marriage in 1935. They worked with his grandfather on a 10-acre truck farm, raising stringbeans and strawberries which they sold in nearby Amite.

During their best year, they grossed only a little over $900, but little by little saved up enough to make the down payment on 14 acres which cost them $300.

"Why grow one or two vegetables when we can grow a variety of them?" they asked themselves. Today, unlike most of their neighbors, the Freemans' farm is a patchwork of crops — two acres of cucumbers, two of squash, one of lima beans, four of winter mustard and turnips, one of strawberries and three of stringbeans. Many hands are required for the harvest, and those of the older two of their four children come in handy after school.

Since 1943, they have been raising enough vegetables to make it worthwhile to haul them to New Orleans markets. Mr. Freeman now makes three trips a week to the metropolis in his new truck, averaging $70 a trip.

The truck farmer estimates that gross returns from his crops range from $600 on lima beans to $4,500 on winter mustard and turnips. Strawberries bring about $1,000, and cucumbers, $2,700. The total comes to $10,000.

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USDA officials point out that such intensified farming may provide the ution to the problem of many small cotton farmers in the South who in the future may not be able to compete effectively with large scale mechanized units.

Another advantage of truck farming is the ease with which operators may feed their families at home. A couple of milk cows and a few pigs and chickens round out the source of the Freeman's food supply.

But the couple believe in feeding their land, too. They rotate their crops, turn under Austrain winter peas and other legumes, and maintain a cover of oats or ryegrass on any unused acres in order to keep their soil highly productive.

However, feeding themselves and feeding their land aren't the whole story. Four years ago they built a new home and began equipping it. Mrs. Mary B. Wicker, their home demonstration agent, helped them with the selection of wall paper and furnishings.

Mrs. Freeman is particularly proud of her $400 gas range with its automatic features. The next step is to get an electric pump and install bathroom facilities.

They are going slow, buying for the home without sacrificing the money they are saving up to ensure their childrens' education. One of them will enter college next year.

TRUCK CROP SUPPLEMENTS COTTON.—Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Jones, left, of Lillie, La., supplement their income from cotton with receipts from fruits and vegetables which are marketed in nearby towns. Here, they show County Agent J. H. Hightower, in truck, and Assistant State Agent R. J. Courtney, right, some of the sweet potatoes and other products being loaded to carry to be marketed in town. Last year, trucking brought them $1,200. Note their modern home in the background.—USDA Photo.

FARM EVENTS SET AT SOUTHERN U.

Attractions Offer Information, Recreation

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Baton Rouge, La., March 31 — The eighth annual state livestock and poultry show and Farm and Home Week will open at Southern university Sunday.

The livestock show will feature exhibits in both the adult division and the junior division for 4-H Club members and other young livestock growers. Farm and Home Week will have as its theme "Scientific and Economical Practices of Farm and Home Living" and will offer visitors to the Southern university campus a four-day program of information and recreation.

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The two events are sponsored by the Louisiana agricultural extension service, the state department of vocational agriculture, and home economics at Southern university.

J. W. Fisher, director of agriculture at Southern, is superintendent of the livestock show. Judges will include livestock and poultry specialists from Louisiana State university, Alcorn college at Alcorn, Miss., and Prairie View college, Prairie View, Tex. The show will close with sale of the prize winning exhibits at an auction Thursday at 2 p. m.

High lights of the Farm and Home Week program will include a get-acquainted program at 7 p. m. Monday; a community sing at 7 p. m., Tuesday, and at 6:30 p. m. Wednesday, the annual Farm and Home dinner with W. L. Bradford, principal of the school for Negro deaf at Southern university, as toastmaster and John G. Lewis Jr., grand master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, state of Louisiana, as guest speaker.

At 11 a. m., Thursday, there will be a general assembly dedicated to winners in the annual Better Living Contest for 4-H Club members. Dr. F. G. Clark, president of Southern, will preside. The guest speaker will be state superintendent of education S. M. Jackson.

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HELENA PARISH, La. — A truck grower who grosses over $10,000 annually off only 14 acres may have a formula for success which other small farmers could apply, say officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The farmer is 35-yearold Samuel Freeman of St. Helena Parish, La., 60 miles from New Orleans. A report of his achievement was received last week by the Department from the Louisiana State Extension Service.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman started out as sharecroppers the next day after their marriage in 1935. They worked with his grandfather on a 10-acre truck farm, raising stringbeans and strawberries which they sold in nearby Amite.

During their best year, they grossed only a little over $900, but little by little saved up enough to make the down payment on 14 acres which cost them $300.

2-25-51

"Why grow one or two vegetables when we can grow a variety of them?" they asked themselves. Today, unlike most of their neighbors, the Freemans' farm is a patchwork of crops — two acres of cucumbers, two of squash, one of lima beans, four of winter mustard and turnips, one of strawberries and three of stringbeans. Many hands are required for the harvest, and those of the older two of their four children come in handy after school.

Since 1943, they have been raising enough vegetables to make it worthwhile to haul them to New Orleans markets. Mr. Freeman now makes three trips a week to the metropolis in his new truck, averaging $70 a trip.

The truck farmer estimates that gross returns from his crops range from $600 on lima beans to $4,500 on winter mustard and turnips. Strawberries bring about $1,000, and cucumbers, $2,700. The total comes to $10,000.

USDA officials point out that such intensified farming may provide the solution to the problem of many small cotton farmers in the South who in the future may not be able to compete effectively with large scale mechanized units.

Another advantage of truck farming is the ease with which operators may feed their families at home. A couple of milk cows and a few pigs and chickens round out the source of the Freeman's food supply.

But the couple believe in feeding their land, too. They rotate their crops, turn under Austrain winter peas and other legumes, and maintain a cover of oats or ryegrass on any unused acres in order to keep their soil highly productive.

However, feeding themselves and feeding their land aren't the whole story. Four years ago they built a new home and began equipping it. Mrs. Mary B. Wicker, their home demonstration agent, helped them with the selection of wall paper and furnishings.

Mrs. Freeman is particularly proud of her $400 gas range with its automatic features. The next step is to get an electric pump and install bathroom facilities.

SWEEPSTAKES CHAMPION — Floyd Sherrod of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce presented the $250 grand sweepstakes prize in The Commercial Appeal's 1951 Live-At-Home Competition to Essie Mae Boone, Eunell Boone and Willie B. Boone of Route 4, Jackson, Madison County, Tenn., at the 14th annual Live-At-Hhome Rally at Booker T. Washington High School yesterday. Owners of a 75-acre farm, the Boones defeated some 60,000 Negro farm families of Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri to win the honor.

TOP TENANTS—Chosen as tenant sweepstakes champions to win a $100 prize offered by the Memphis Negro Chamber of Comemrce were Annie Mae and Alson Blackburn of Route 2, Blytheville, Mississippi County, Ark. The presentation to the Blackburns, operators of an 80-acre cotton, corn and soybean farm, was made by Rosa Brown Bracy, executive secretary of the Negro C of C.

—Staff Photos

LIVE-AT-HOME AWARD DRAWS CHEERS OF 400

Madison County, Tenn., Negro Couple Receives $250—Other Prizes Presented

With the cheers of some 400 persons ringing in their ears, Willie B. and Essie Mae Boone of Madison County, Tenn., yesterday accepted the $250 check as grand sweepstakes prize, bringing the 14th annual Live-At-Home Rally to a climax.

The event, sponsored by The Commercial Appeal, was staged in the new Blair T. Hunt gymnasium at Booker T. Washington High School.

Fri. 12-21-51

Sherrod Presents Award

The award that marks the Boones as champion Negro farmers of the MidSouth was presented by Floyd Sherrod of the Agricultural Committee of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, which gives the prize money.

Sharing honors with the Boone family were Alson and Annie Mae Blackburn of near Blytheville, Ark., sweepstakes winners in the Tenant Division. They were presented a $100 check by Rosie Bracey, executive secretary of the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce, which donates the tenant award.

The Boones own and operate a 75-acre farm on the Christmasville Road near Jackson. They were married in 1933 and started farming the same year. They sharecropped for eight years, then bought 31½ acres together with his father-in-law. Five years later they bought 46 additional acres, bringing the farm to its present size.

New Home Completed

They completed a new home this year at a cash cost of $4500. Other home improvements cost them $983.32. They got a loan from the Farmers Home Administration to build and make the improvements.

The total value of the Boone crops this year was $4080. Cotton brought in $2264.48, and corn $950. Their total income from all sources was $7736, and they showed a net gain of $5860.

The Boone family had a year-round garden this year, with nine different vegetables in it this Fall. In spite of dry weather, a large amount of fruits and vegetables was canned. They had 15 bushels of sweet potatoes, plus six hogs and a beef to kill for the family's winter food supply.

Alston Blackburn is a 48-year-old tenant farmer who started out in 1922 as a sharecropper in the hills around Fayette, Ala. He and his wife now farm an 80-acre tract seven miles northwest of Blytheville. The judges concluded from their Live-At-Home record book that they had done an exceptional job of living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification and crop diversification.

The Boones and the Blackburns scored their victories in competition with more than 50,000 other Negro families who entered the 1951 Live-At-Home Competition.

College President Speaks

The principal speaker was Dr. J. H. White, president of Mississippi Vocational College at Itta Bena, and former president of Lane College at Jackson, Tenn.

Robert F. Paine, managing editor of The Commercial Appeal, welcomed the guests to the rally, after Ernest Brazzle, Shelby County Negro extension agent, called the meeting to order. Prof. Henry Grinner, principal of Bartlett Junior High School, presided.

Others on the program were Prof. Blair T. Hunt, principal of Booker T. Washington High School; T. R. Betton, Arkansas Negro district extension agent; W. H. Williamson, Tennessee assistant Negro extension agent, and M. M. Hubert, Mississippi state extension agent in charge of Negro work.

Music was provided by Imogene Usher Hill, soloist; singers from Weaver School and Frazier High School, and the Booker T. Washington High School band.

An old fashioned Southern barbecue, served with all the trimmings by Monte Robinson of Monte's Drive-In Restaurant, was the final event of the day.

LIVE-AT-HOME PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED

38 Negro Farmers To Get Awards Here Tomorrow

Wed. 12-19-51

DR. J. H. WHITE TO TALK

By WALTER DURHAM

Thirty-eight MidSouth Negro farmers will harvest a green crop in Memphis tomorrow.

State and sweepstakes winners in The Commercial Appeal's 1951 Live - At - Home Competition, in which some 60,000 families participated this year, their harvest will be $1660 in cash awards they earned for making outstanding records in living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification and home management and improvement.

Starts At 10

The prizes will be presented at the 14th annual Live-At-Home Rally in the Blair T. Hunt Gymnasium at Booker T. Washington High School, starting at 10 a.m.

Some 600 county winners and their families, agricultural, educational and business leaders and representatives of the Negro press are expected. The festivities will be climaxed with an old fashioned Southern barbecue dinner with all the trimmings.

Principal speaker will be Dr. J. H. White, president of Mississippi Vocational College at Itta Bena, the state's third school of higher learning for Negroes. He will be introduced by Prof. R. J. Roddy, principal of Shelby County Training School.

Guests will be welcomed by Robert F. Paine, managing editor of The Commercial Appeal; Prof. Blair T. Hunt, principal of Booker T. Washington, and Prof. W. A. Flowers of Tennessee A. and I. State University.

Martin Zook, director of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Department, will present the $250 grand sweepstakes award, and Rosa Brown Bracy, executive secretary of the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce, will award the $100 tenant sweepstakes prize, given annually by the Negro C. of C.

State Prizes

State prizes of $50 for first, $37.50 for second, $32.50 for third and $25 for fourth to winners in each division in each state will be given by Walter Durham, contest director for The Commercial Appeal.

The meeting will be called to order by Ernest Brazzle, Shelby County Negro extension agent, and Prof. Henry Grinner, principal of Bartlett Junior High School will preside. Rev. Samuel Herring, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church at Kerrville will pronounce the invocation and the benediction.

To be introduced during the program are state and county agricultural agents and educational leaders from Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

Entertainment will be provided by musical units from Weaver School and Frayser High School and the Booker T. Washington Band.

Negro Farmers Of MidSouth Reap Rewards At Rally Today

By WALTER DURHAM

To reap the rewards they have earned by a year of intensive efforts on their farms, some 300 MidSouth Negro farmers, with their families and agricultural and educational leaders, will come to Memphis today as guests of The Commercial Appeal. Altogether, some 600 visitors are expected.

The event will be the 14th annual Live-At-Home Rally in the Blair T. Hunt gymnasium of Booker T. Washington High School at Lauderdale and Mississippi.

The rally is being held with the co-operation of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Extension Services and the Farmers Home Administration of Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

Presentation To Be Highlight

Highlight of the program will be the presentation of cash prizes to state and sweepstakes winners in the four-point farm competition that enrolled some 60,000 contestants this year. Prizes total $1660, and they will be awarded to those who have done the best jobs of living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification and home management and improvement.

These prizes will go to first, second, third and fourth place state winners in the Landowner and Tenant Divisions, and to sweepstakes winners in the Landowner, Tenant and Farm Operator Divisions. Also to be awarded are four $25 state prizes in the Home Improvement Division.

The Commerial Appeal also will award special gifts to the sweepstakes winners.

A feature of the day's festivities will be an old fashioned Southern barbecue dinner with all the trimmings, served in the school cafeteria by Monte Robinson, owner of Monte's Drive-In Restaurant.

Principal speaker will be Dr. J. H. White, president of Mississippi Vocational College at Itta Bena, one of the MidSouth's best known educators and former president of Lane College in Jackson, Tenn. He will be presented by R. J. Roddy, principal of Shelby County Training School.

Others On Program

Others on thep rogram include Ernest Brazzle, Shelby County Negro extension agent; Prof. Henry Grinner, principal of Bartlett Junior High School; Rev. Samuel Herring, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church at eKrrville; Prof. Blair T. Hunt, principal of Booker T. Washington High; Robert F. Jaine, managing editor the The Commercial Appeal; Prof. W. A. Flowers of Tennessee A. & I. College.

W. H. Willitmson, Tennessee Negro district extension agent; T. R. Betton, Arkansas Negro district extension agent; M. M. Hubert, Mississippi state extension agent in charge of Negro work; Imogene Usher Hill, soloist; Walter Durham, contest director for The Commercial Appeal; Martin Zook, directoro f the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Department, and Rosa Brown Bracy, executive secretary of the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce.

Music wil be provided by pupils of Weaver School, Frayser School and the Booker T. Washington Band.

Four Families Win Arkansas Farm Contest

ARKANSAS—(ANP)—Four farm families were named last week as Arkansas' model "Live-At-Home" families and home improvement accomplishments for 1951.

The families shared $450 in cash awards with second, third and fourth place winners. The winners are as follows:

Ames and Florence Thomas, who own a 47 acre farm in Mississippi county, William and Josephine Scott, also of Mississippi county, Alex and Lillian Brown of Jefferson county and Willie and Lula Lundy of Jefferson county.

The contest was sponsored by the Arkansas Press Association in cooperation with the Arkansas Power and Light Company, the Agriculture Extension Service, the farmers Home Administration and the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

NEGRO FARM CHAMPS RALLY HERE THURSDAY

Annual Live-At-Home Program To Honor 125 Winners In Four-State Contest

By WALTER DURHAM
Director, Plant To Prosper Bureau

Negro farmers—landowners, farm operators, tenants and sharecroppers from Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee—will come to Memphis Thursday to attend the 14th annual Live-At-Home Rally, given by The Commercial Appeal at Booker T. Washington High School.

The event, starting at 10 in the new Blair T. Hunt gymnasium, will honor some 125 county winners in the four-point Live-At-Home Competition, who have done the best jobs this year in living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification and home management and improvement. About 600 guests are expected.

60,000 In Contest

Prizes totaling $1660 will be awarded to state and sweepstakes winners in the contest which enrolled some 60,000 participants this year.

Highlight of the all-day program will be awarding of the $250 grand sweepstakes prize to the champion farmer of the four states embraced by the competition. The presentation will be made by Martin Zook, director of the Agricultural Department of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, which gives the award.

Rosie Bracey, executive secretary of the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce, will present the $100 tenant sweepstakes award to the champion tenant family. This prize is given annually by the Negro C. of C.

Dr. White To Speak

State cash prizes—$50 for first, $37.50 for second, $32.50 for third and $25 for fourth to both landowners and tenants—will be given by Walter Durham, contest director. Also to be awarded are four $25 state prizes for home improvement.

Principal speaker will be Dr. J. H. White, president of Mississippi Vocational College at Itta Bena. A graduate of Tennessee A. & I. College at Nashville, Dr. White did postgraduate work at Fisk University at Nashville and Columbia University in New York City.

Before being called to the presidency of Mississippi Vocational College, the third state school for higher learning for Negroes in Mississippi, Dr. White served two years as president of Lane College in Jackson, Tenn.

He will be introduced by Prof. R. J. Roddy, principal of Shelby County Training School.

Robert F. Paine, managing editor of The Commercial Appeal, will make the welcome address on behalf of this newspaper after the meeting has been called to order by Ernest Brazzle, Shelby County Negro extension agent. Prof. Henry Grinner, principal of Bartlett Junior High School will preside.

The invocation will be said by Rev. Samuel Herring, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church at Kerrville, after which greetings will be extended by Prof. Blair T. Hunt, principal of Booker T. Washington High, and Prof. W. A. Flowers of Tennessee A & I College.

Agricultural leaders and extension agents will be presented by T. R. Betton, Arkansas Negro district extension agent; W. H. Williamson, Tennessee assistant Negro extension agent, and M. M. Hubert, Mississippi state extension agent in charge of Negro work.

Trophies to the extension agents who obtained the highest Live-At-Home enrolment this year and who produced the grand sweepstakes champions will be presented by Mr. Durham.

Music will be provided by Imogene Usher Hill, soloist, and Weaver School, Frayser High School and Booker T. Washington musical units.

The day will be climaxed with an old fashioned Southern barbecue dinner with all the trimmings. It will be served in the school cafeteria by Monte Robinson of Monte's Drive-In Restaurant.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — (SNS) —

FIRST PLACE WINNERS in the 1951 live-at-home and home improvement contests in Arkansas were named Friday. At the left, seated, are Lillian and Alex Brown of Tucker, home improvement winners in the landowners' division, and standing are Amos and Florence Thomas of Route 1, Tyronza, live-at-home winners in the landowners' division. At the right, seated, are Willie and Lula Lundy of Wabbaseka, home improvement winners in the tenants' division, and standing are William and Josephine Scott of Route 1, Tyronza, live-at-home winners in the tenants' division.

The agents themselves came in for prizes and awards on the basis of their records for membership enrollment in the project and the alliance with champion farmer.

The day's program included a musical program featuring Mrs. Imogene Usher Hill and musical units from Weaver School, Frayser High School and Booker T. Washington High School.

Rounding out the day's activities was a barbecue dinner in the Monte's Restaurant supervised by the proprietor. Monte Robinson.

14th "Live At Home" Rally Held Here Last Week

On Thursday for the 14th annual Live-at-Home Rally, hundreds of farmers, farm operators, tenants and sharecroppers gathered at Memphis' Booker T. Washington High School in a gathering sponsored by the Commercial Appeal newspaper.

One hundred twenty-five county winners in the four-point Live-at-Home competition will be feted in the observance. The four points are: soil conservation, crop diversification, home management and improvement and "living at home."

The prizes totaled $1,660 and went to winners on state and regional levels. The $250 "Grand Sweepstakes" prize will be awarded to the champion farmer of the region. The champion tenant farmer will receive $100 prize awarded by Mrs. Rosa Brown Bracy, executive secretary of the Negro Chamber of Commerce which sponsors the award.

Dr. J. H. White, president of Mississippi Vocational College at Itta Bena, was the principal speaker of the day. He had previously served as a high-school principal of Shelby County Training School, presented Dr. White to the assembly.

The Commercial Appeal's managing editor, Robert F. Paine, made the welcome address at the program by Ernest Brazzle, Shelby County Negro Extension agent.

Presiding over the program was Prof. Henry Grinner, principal of Bartlett Junior High School. Greetings were extended by Booker T. Washington Principal Blair T. Hunt and by Prof. W. A. Flowers of Tennessee A. and I. University.

The invocation was rendered by Rev. Samuel Herring. T. R. Betton, Arkansas Negro district extension agent, presented the many leaders and extension agents who cooperate with the program on a year-'round basis. He was assisted by W. H. Williamson, Tennessee assistant Negro extension agent and M. M. Hubert, extension agent of Mississippi.

Good Thanksgiving In Store For This Veteran: He Has 300 Turkeys

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Among the thousands of colored farmers who are helping the Nation to produce 53 million turkeys this year is Christopher C. Fobbs, a young veteran who operates a six-acre poultry farm in Maryland just outside the District of Columbia.

"Mr. Fobbs is one of the most successful small poultry farmers in the state," says District Agent Martin G. Bailey of the Maryland Extension Service. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the poultryman will sell more than 300 dressed turkeys to supplement his annual income from 7,000 broilers and fryers and nearly 300 cases of eggs.

Mr. and Mrs. Fobbs got started in 1947, after the young veteran, who spent three years in the South Pacific sector, had completed a course in poultry husbandry at West Virginia State college. Anxious to get some practical experience, he applied to the Maryland State Employment Service for a job on a poultry farm.

It wasn't long before he got a call. A farmer at Forrestville, Md., six miles from the Nation's capital, needed a helper. Fobbs and his wife packed up and headed for the job. But when they arrived, it had been taken. However, the farmer told them about a poultry farm for rent nearby. Somewhat reluctantly, they decided to plunge in.

With most of their savings, they paid the rent for a year, and then went to the Upper Marlboro Production Credit Association and borrowed $900 to buy some layers and get started. It didn't take long to get going. Within six months, they had repaid their PCA loan and had drummed up as many chicken and egg customers in Washington as they could supply.

The Fobbses are natives of Jackson, Miss. He became interested in poultry farming while stationed in Australia during the war. There, he saw poultrymen making good. "I decided then that I was going to become a poultry farmer, if I ever got back home," says the veteran.

MRS. FOBBS checks one of her 300 turkeys for weight. About half of the gobblers are raised for the Thanksgiving market.

Upon his return in 1945, he and his bride moved to Baltimore to live with one of his sisters and to cast about for an opportunity to get into poultry farming. However, doubting his ability to be a good poultryman without some training, he got his transcript from Campbell college and applied to West Virginia State to enter a specialized training course in poultry husbandry.

"It has worked out all right," says Mr. Fobbs. His next step is to buy a small farm of his own and expand his production. He would like to raise 1000 turkeys a year, increase his weekly sale of broilers and fryers from 125 to 500, and his layers from 800 to 2,000. "This would give me enough layers to produce 15 or 16 cases of eggs a week, or about 70 dozen a day," says the young poultryman.

Of FARMS and FARMERS

"THIS IS HOW we dress chickens for market," Mrs. Christopher C. Fobbs of Forrestville, Md., tells Richard Hakansson (left), Swedish agricultural information director, who visited the farm recently. Mr. and Mrs. Fobbs sell 7,000 dressed broilers and fryers and 300 turkeys a year. At right is John Dockett, a hired worker.

Nation-wide Survey Reveals Increased Farm Machinery Needs

Farmers now need 15 percent more new farm machinery than they received in 1949 and they require 20 percent more repair and replacement parts than were available to them in the same period, according to a survey recently made in all of the agricultural counties of the United States. Results of the study were made public today by Secrteray of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, who said that it is being used as the basis for determining 1952 farm machinery requirements for presentation to the defense production agencies.

"It is obvious that our present rate of farm prduction must be maintained, and, in some instances increased, if we are to maintain our strong defensive position in food and fiber," Secretary Brannan said. "Essential requirements of agricultural machinery and repair parts must be provided to insure this production. The intensive use of machinery and equipment in 'all-out' production creates an increased need for certain types of new machinery and heightens the demand for most repair parts"

In order to obtain more complete informaton on producers needs, the Department, through State and county Production and Marketing Administration farmer committees, recently surveyed all of the Nation's agricultural counties. The Secretary pointed out that each county PMA committee was instructed to take into consideration in its determination of county requirements only immediate needs of farmers -- not what they would like to purchase or what they might give as anticipated future needs State Commissioners of Agriculture, Expectant Stations, the Extension Service, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics assisted State PMA committees in reviewing and consolidating the county estimaes. Further intensive review was made after the surveys reached the Department.

Although the survey shows that an aggregate quantity of new farm mahinery and equipment equals to 115 percent of 1949 shipments is needed in 1952, the Secretary emphasized that this does not apply uniformly to all items of equipment. The trend toward use of heavier machinery accounts for a major proportion of the increase, whereas the need for horse-drawn equipment is only 60 to 75 percent of 1949 shipments reflecting the increasing mechanization and continuing decline in animal draft power.

Production adjustment among crops necessary to meet the shifting pattern of food and fiber requirements also are reflected in the results of the surveys. For instance, a substantial increase over 1949 production in cotton pickers and strippers is needed due to major increases in cotton acreage in areas where this machinery is used. At the same time, requirements for potato planting and harvesting equipment are only about 70 percent of 1949 shipments because of smaller acreages now being planted to this crop.

The accelerated movement of workers from farms to factories and to the armed forces is shown in increased requirements for such labor-saving machinery as beet harvesters, corn pickers, automatic pick-up balers, cotton harvesters, and forage harvesters. The increasing importance of fertilizer and pesticides to expanded farm production accounts for higher requirements for fertilizer distributors, manure spreaders, and for field and row-crop sprayers and dusters.

A breakdown of the survey, showing present needs for various types of farm equipment, as a percentage of 1949 purchases, follows.

Present Needs for Farm Equipment, as a Percentage of 1949 Purchases

Tractors -- wheel:	
light	86
medium	110
heavy	123
Tractors -- crawlers	
light	106
heavy	115
Tractors -- garden type	81
Plows -- tractor moldboard	108
tractor disc	109
horse drawn	61
one-way disc	103
ditching plows	68
Listers -- drawn	102
mounted	115
Terracers	92
Harrows:	
Disc	119
Spike tooth	104
Spring tooth	108
Stalk cutters	101
Land levelers & scrapers	101
Land Rollers:	
Smooth	63
Pulverizing	101
Grain Drills	117
Corn and Cotton Planters	117
Potato Planters	75
Beet & Bean Drills	102
Transplanters	112
Limespreaders	92
Fertilizer Distributors	111
Manure Spreaders	122
Cultivators:	
Horse drawn	75
Tractor	120
Rotary Hoes	105
Field Cultivators	97
Sprayers:	
Orchard	104
Field Crop	133
Dusters:	
Orchard	86
Field Crop	131
Grain Combines:	
6' and under	111
over 6'	106
self-propelled	112
Grain Binders	78
Potato Diggers	72
Beet Lifters	80
Beet Harvesters	129
Corn Pickers	129
Field & Forage Harvesters	129
Cotton Pickers	260
Cotton Strippers	1049
Mowers:	
Tractor Mounted	118
Drawn	80
Rakes:	
Side delivery	136
Sulky	75
Balers:	
Stationary	58
Pick-up wire	126
Pick-up twine	125
Farm Elevators:	
Portable	114
Stationary	108
Grian blowers	90
Forage blowers	114
Threshers:	
Peanut	94
Grain	61
Corn Shellers	99
Hammer Mills	96
Burr Mills	80
Seed Cleaners	91
Dryers:	
Portable	99
Stationary	104
Farm Dairy Machinery:	
Cream Separators	91
Milking Machines	105
Milk Coolers	108
Farm Poultry Equipment:	
Incubators	83
Brooders	103
Feeders	105
Waterers	105
Growing and Laying Batteries	96
Egg Grading & Cleaning Equip.	103
Barn Equipment:	
Stalls with Stanchions	101
Stalls without Stanchions	94
Barn Cleaners	112
Stanchions	99
Water Bowls	101
Feed & Litter Carriers	97
Barnyard Equipment:	
Feeders	103
Stock Tanks	103
Hog Waterers	105
Farm Wagons & Truck:	
Chassis	100
Trailer Gears	98
Boxes, Beds & Racks	104
Domestic Water Supply:	
Pumps	108
Windmills	77
Complete Water Systems	129
Farm Irrigation Equipment:	
Pipe	173
Pumps	158
Motors-engines	143
Sprinkler Systems	136
All Repair Parts:	120

U. S. Weighted Average Percent - 114.69

Hand Cotton Picking Not Passe; Find Mechanized Pickers Don't Always Work

BOSTON — (ANP) — While the cotton industry is increasingly becoming mechanized, due to the dwingling source of human labor, the picking of cotton by hand is not wholly passe.

According to Dr. Charles R. Sayre of Scott, Miss., chairman of the Production and Marketing committee of the National Cotton Council:

"...the mills engaged in the spinning of fine counts and high quality yarn are extremely reluctant, or will not consider, the use of mechanically picked cotton."

This statement, appearing in the Feb. 22 issue of "The American Wool and Cotton Report," is based upon a recent survey conducted throughout the industry to learn whether mechanically harvested cotton came up to par with the hand-picked variety.

The reluctance of mills to make use of mechanically picked cotton stems from the "proven poorer performance of this type of stock and because such mills purchase cotton on the basis of stable length and grade.

"While mechanical picking may not have a detrimental effect upon stable length, it most decidedly does lower the grade and there is not generally offered to the mill purchasing only the higher grades."

His report revealed that most of the mills using the higher quality of yarn have indicated their willingness to use mechanically picked cotton "when the grade improves."

The survey shows that most mill men found that the mechanically picked cotton is from one to two grades lower than the same crop picked by normal hand-picking methods.

Cotton picking, which now pays $4 or $5 a hundred pounds, is pretty well paid work, but it only comes for a brief period each year. It is largely for the higher quality yarn that landlords seek to retain the migrating labor on their farms—though nearly everything else they can do can be done cheaper by machine.

Mechanization Speeds Agricultural Revolution

The first farm mechanization conference at the University of Georgia College of Agriculture last week is another indication that the agricultural revolution in this State, begun two decades ago and rapidly accelerated during the past five years, is reaching a new phase.

The average citizen does not yet realize the extent of progress which has been made on Georgia farms during the last few years. The fact that mechanization has reached the point that a state-wide conference on effective use of machinery should be held is conclusive proof that agriculturally Georgia has arrived.

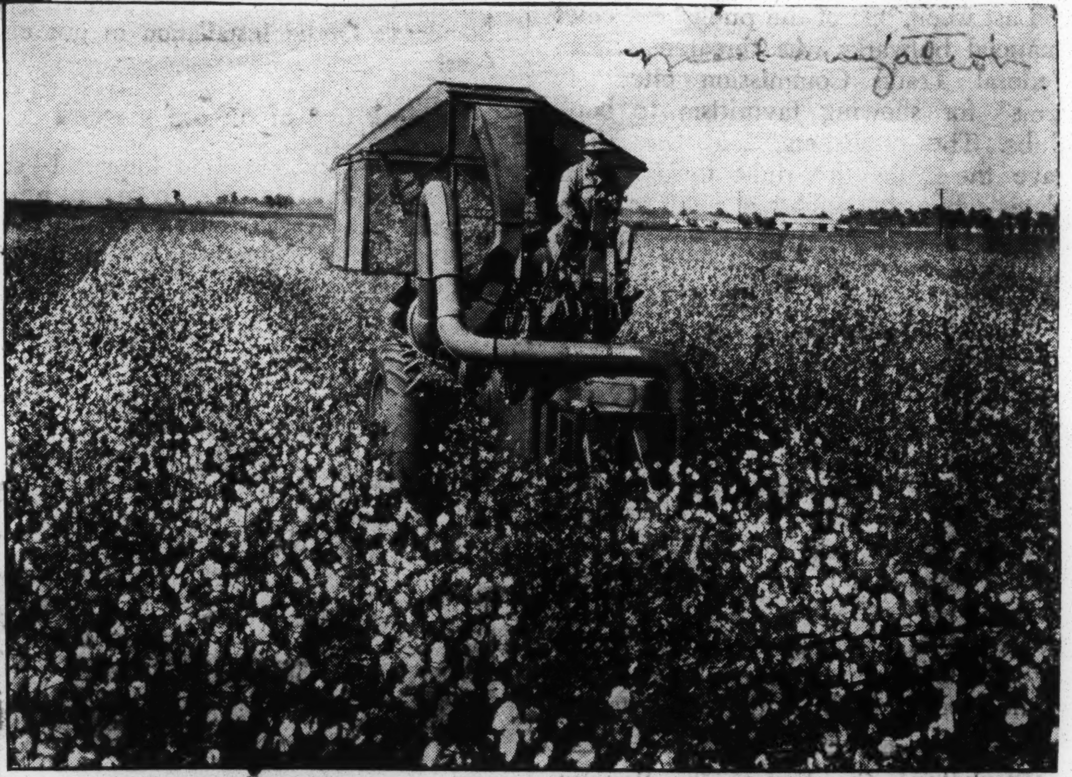
Literally millions of dollars have gone into the purchase of farm equipment, tractors, trucks and other labor-saving devices. The costly and unprofitable use of the mule has all but disappeared.

Georgia is facing a new day in agriculture. More and more farmers are attacking their problems with new methods and intelligence. Those who refused to face facts and fall in step with the new conditions have been forced to leave the farms.

A great deal of the progress has come through education. Farm agents in the various government-sponsored programs have done their work well. More and more graduates of our agricultural schools have gone into the field to teach, to persuade and to prove that farming can be not only a satisfactory way of life, but a profitable one as well. Other graduates have put their knowledge to practical use on their own lands. Vocational education is now in reach of almost every farm youth.

The results of the revolution are evident throughout the State. Rundown farm homes have given way to shiny new residences, with every convenience available to make living attractive. Eroded lands are being replaced with green blankets of soil-building crops. Lands unsuitable for old methods of rowcropping are being rebuilt as pastures, with acres of trees putting money in the bank from lands which were no longer profitable.

Georgia's agriculture is still its biggest business. But the real development of land resources is only just beginning. As rapid as the transformation has been, the greatest progress still lies in the future.



International Harvester

A mechanical picker starts on 1951's near-record cotton crop

AGRICULTURE:

Lush Harvest Hopes

As recently as two years ago, the news that a bumper crop of cotton was on the way would have been received with shudders at the Department of Agriculture. Visions of millions to be spent for price supports and thousands of bales crammed in government warehouses would have kept officials awake at night. Last week, however, Agriculture announced—with satisfaction—that the nation's cotton growers are working a total of 29,510,000 acres this year, with prospects of a crop amounting to more than 16,500,000 bales.

For Agriculture—and the nation as a whole—the news from the Cotton Belt was heartening. Last year's short crop of 10,012,000 bales, combined with the sh... demand brought on by the Korean war, had resulted in cleaning out a huge postwar surplus. Export shipments had been put under strict control and domestic prices had soared past 40 cents a pound, reaching a 30-year high.

Early this year, Washington asked that cotton farmers expand their acreage. The response was good, even though the Office of Price Stabilization slapped ceilings on cotton, right down to the farm level. While the Congressional cotton bloc was loud in its denunciation of OPS, farmers went ahead with their pla... schedules. OPS had set the ceiling per cent of parity, and this level, combined with the assurance that there was a ready market for every bale which could be raised, pacified the growers.

While cotton prospects received the major share of attention, Agriculture Department officials also announced that the entire crop outlook was the best in years. More acres are being cultivated in 1951 than at any time since 1933. The corn crop should be the third largest in history—running past 3,295,000,000 bushels. Wheat harvesting will probably bring in about 1,070,132,000 bushels, just about on a par with the last ten-year average. Oats, barley, and rye, among other grains, are heading for good yields. About the only commodity which will show a definite drop this year from the 1950 figure will be potatoes. Spud growers, now operating without supports, have cut their plantings to the lowest level since 1871. The resulting crop is expected to reach 356,043,000 bushels, a fifth below last year's total.

Mechanization In Farming of Cotton Is Urged

Welch Points to Labor Pinch, Production Costs

Special to the Herald Tribune

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 29.—Mechanized cotton farming offers the greatest single opportunity for increased efficiency in cotton production, Claude L. Welch, director of production and marketing of the National Cotton Council, declared today in a statement. Mr. Welch said that although man labor has always been the greatest single cost factor in cotton production, the situation is particularly aggravated today by the steadily decreasing number of farm workers in the cotton states.

"The 1950 census revealed population gains in urban areas of many Southern and Southwestern states at the expense of rural counties of the same areas," Mr. Welch said. "The outbreak of the Korean War has further aggravated this situation as men have entered the armed forces and moved on to industrial employment in defense plants. There seems to be no likelihood that this trend will be reversed in the forseeable future.

"Labor shortages more than any one other factor have pushed to record highs the cost of producing the 1951 cotton crop. Accordingly, increased mechanization of cotton farms is an urgent need if we are to grow our crop efficiently and competitively."

In the High Plains of Texas and Oklahoma, where mechanization has become the rule rather than the exception, a bale of cotton can be produced mechanically with as little as 15.4 hours of man labor, in comparison with the sixty-six man hours with one-row mule equipment, he pointed out. Equally impressixe labor savings have been attained in other sections of the Cotton Belt.

Mechanization Gets Credit for Big Cotton Crop

Wynn Cites 65% Rise Despite Labor Shortage

By John M. Morahan

GREENVILLE, Miss., Oct. 3.—The phenomenal expansion in cotton production this year could not have been achieved without mechanization of all processing from plowing to harvesting, according to William T. Wynn, treasurer of the National Cotton Council and long an outstanding planter in the historic Delta cotton-growing district of Mississippi.

Pointing out that cotton production has risen approximately 65 per cent within a single year, from 9,500,000 bales to about 17,300,000 bales, a performance that could not be matched by either the rayon or wool industries, Mr. Wynn told a group of visiting newspaper men at his Refuge plantation that this performance could be attributed to the ingenuity of cotton farmers who were quick to apply all of the mechanical aids available to offset the shortage of labor across the belt.

Explaining the difficulties that confronted cotton farmers in achieving the goal of more than 16,000,000 bales set by the government last fall, Mr. Wynn said that man power was and continues to be the number one problem in producing the 1951 crop. Long before the drive for increased production got under way, skilled labor of the type needed to operate cotton farming equipment was drifting into industries with prospects of higher wages. According to Mr. Wynn, cotton farms in the South have lost about 38 per cent of their man power to industry and the armed services.

21,500 Units Put Into Use

In order to offset this drain of man power, about 14,000 strippers and 7,500 pickers were put into use. Each mechanical picker, according to Mr. Wynn, averages the picking of about 200 bales a season. This record is likely to be surpassed before the season ends for the reason that most pickers now being used in the Delta will be trucked to the cotton growing regions of the Far West once the crop here is picked. So scarce is mechanical equipment in the Far West that growers there are paying high rentals for the pickers.

The fact that a banner crop is being produced this year does not mean that the task has been easy or one performed without sacrifice, Mr. Wynn declared. As a matter of fact, he said, the 1951 crop was one of the most difficult and costly to raise. Labor costs for chopping and harvesting were more than double those of the previous year. Weather conditions this year favored weed growth which meant the employment of additional field hands.

World Demand Growing

Because of the keen competition for the limited labor available, planters were forced to bid up wage rates, Mr. Wynn said, and the expanded acreage resulted in active competition for pickers. This supply situation was eased to some extent by a new agreement between the United States and Mexican governments. However, this relief is offset by the added costs of recruiting and housing the Mexican labor, the increase amounting to about 50 cents a hundred pounds of cotton picked.

Mr. Wynn declared that a survey made in the Mississippi Delta area, regarded as one of the lowest cost sections of the belt, shows direct costs of growing cotton on large, efficient farms have increased 8 to 9 cents a pound. For a typical plantation operation, it is estimated that pre-harvest outlays for labor, materials and equipment used will amount to about $54 an acre, compared with $40 in 1950.

Despite these disadvantages, Mr. Wynn declared, the United States cotton industry has demonstrated that not only can it surpass other countries in expanding production but all other fibers.

Churches Assist Farmers To Buy Land, Machinery

MADISON—"It now costs between $10,000 and $20,000 to buy the equipment needed to get started on a modern American farm," says Prof. Ralph A. Felton of the Rural Department of Drew Theological Seminary here.

"This means that it is next to impossible for young couples by themselves to get started in farming, he added.

"If they leave the rural par ish, the rural church will soon need to close its doors."

What Study Shows

Prof. Felton has been studying how some churches across the country have helped young farmers to secure land and machinery, thereby keeping them on the farms and in the churches.

He has found a large number that have "placement committees" in their men's organizations watching for likely young couples, likely farms, and bringing the two together.

Some of the churches have credit unions by which the total membership of the church provides funds to help young families purchase farms, homes and equipment.

Other Church Aids

Some are approaching the conservation of the soil of their region in a scientific way, working with the Farm Bureau and other government agencies.

Some have developed a system of "father-and-son partnerships" whereby farmland is given a son on an agreement of eventual ownership of joint ownership.

In other cases local churches have influenced the national boards of their denominations to loan some of their investment funds to likely young farm families.

New Creed Paying Off

"These churches are pioneering in a new philosophy of rural life and welfare," says Prof. Felton," and they are going to save the Christian church in America from passing off the rural scene.

"These families are becoming the mainstay of the churches in many communities."

Negro Farm Leader Wins Highest Award in Government Department

LANGSTON, Okla. — (ANP) — James P. Davis, nationally known farm leader, last week was presented the meritorious service award of the Production and Marketing administration in ceremonies at Langston university.

This award is the highest honor bestowed by the PMA. Davis is the first Negro in the southwest ever to be so honored.

At the same time he was earning this reward for his achievements, Davis also received the honorary degree of doctor of human relations.

Dean John W. Coleman of the Oklahoma School of Religion, Langston, conferred the honorary degree upon him.

Emery E. Jacobs, PMA field man, presented him his meritorious service award for his unusual leadership in stimulating the interest of Negro farmers and their families in the programs of the department, for his outstanding contributions to their welfare, and for his success in promoting interracial good will and understanding.

Davis, who is 65 years old, has worked for the U. S. department of Agriculture for 17 years. A student of Georgia State college in Athens, 1905 and 1906, he has been active in the field of agriculture ever since.

In 1917-18, he worked as food conservator, U. S. department of commerce, in the state of Georgia. In 1922 the National Federation of Colored farmers elected him president with headquarters in Chicago.

Until 1935 when he started working for the department of agriculture, Davis specialized in efficient marketing of farm products by teaching modern methods of grading and packing. In 1941 he moved his headquarters to Little Rock, Ark.

Since then he has worked out educational programs with Negro farmers in conjunction with the PMA, land grant colleges, extension service workers, and others.

According to his citation, Davis went far beyond the requirement of duty to stimulate the interest of his people. An example of his work has been the many "success stories" of Negro farmers.

The winning of this award includes an increase of $200 a year in Davis' salary.

Operates 1,700 Acre Farm; Good Management Responsible

Daily World Tues. 2-6-51

INDIANOLA, Miss. — By the following good management practices, a migrant sharecropper, who arrived in the Mississippi Delta with only 60 cents in his pocket 40 years ago, now operates a 1,700-acre farm.

The former cropper is George Hull, Sr., of Indianola, Miss. How he rose from a landless migrant to become one of the outstanding colored farmers of the South is contained in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from State Extension Leader M. M. Hubert of Mississippi.

Mr. Hull, says the report, is now a small cotton planter with 30 tenants on his place. During some good years, he and his tenants gross over $100,000. Also, he operates a modern grocery store on his farm and owns considerable property in the town of Indianola.

In recent years, with the help of his county agent, Robert A. Lee, he has been shifting part of his cotton acres to soybeans and hay crops. Mr. Hull says he plans to continue raising cotton, but he is also going to raise more hogs and some beef cattle.

On his 1,700 acres, 310 of which he owns and the rest he rents under a long-term lease, Mr. Hull plants 500 acres to cotton, 300 to corn interplanted with soybeans, and 200 to hay. The rest is in woodland and undeveloped pasture.

Most of his corn yield of 50 bushels per acre is fed to his expanding pig herd, although some of it goes to market, and some to the idle mules on the place. He doesn't know what to do about these animals. Now that he has five tractors and a combine, they are seldom harnessed, but he keeps them mostly for sentimental reasons.

Mr. and Mrs. Hull migrated from south of Natchez to Indianola in 1911. 'We had a suitcase and 60 cents between us," says the planter.

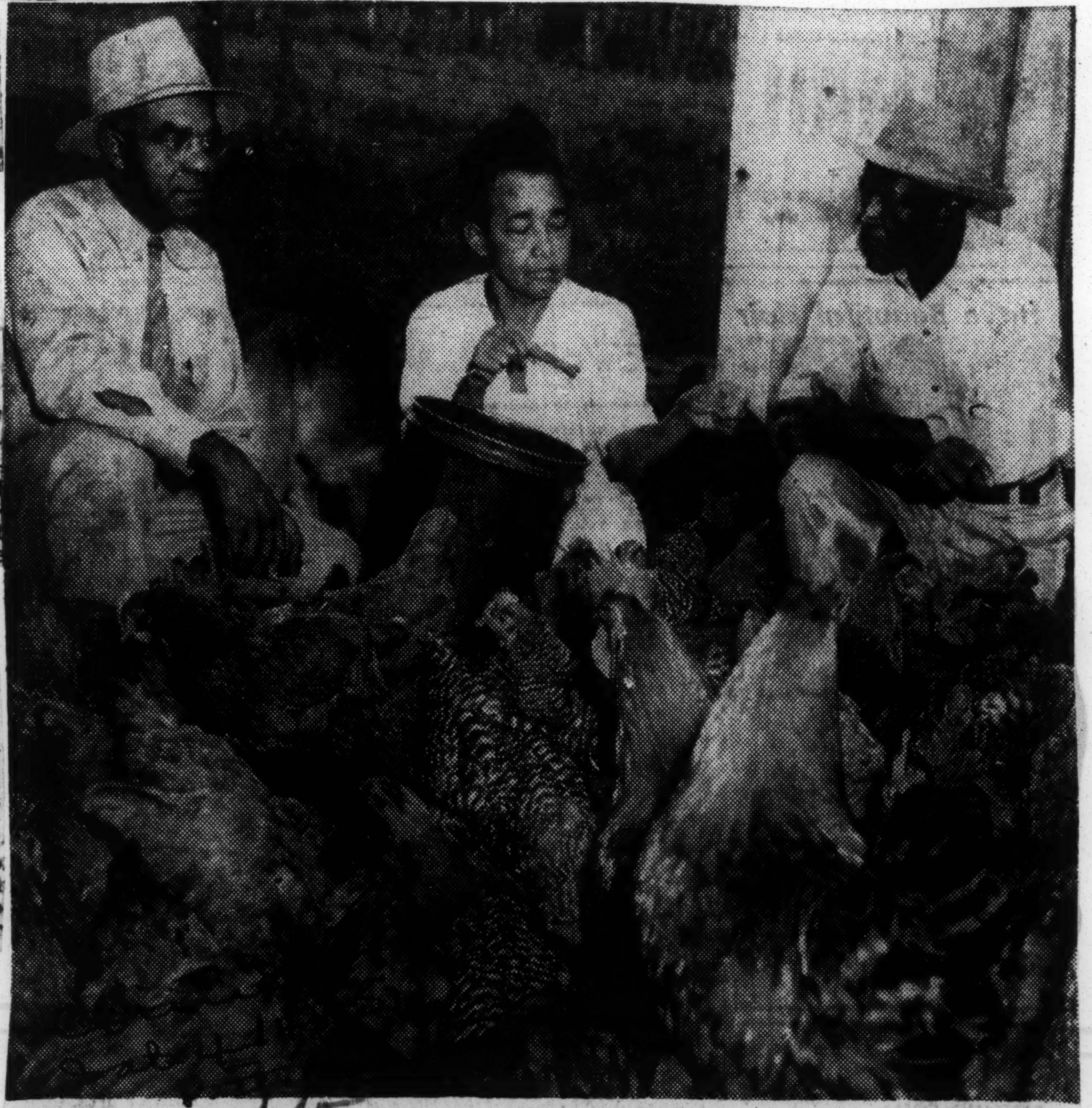
They sharecropped farm near the town for four years. By raising as much of their food as they could, they finally saved up enough to make the down-payment on a mule and blind horse. "Together, they cost $135," Mr. Hull recalls.

Now that they had workstock, the Hulls rented 30 acres, and set about employing improved farming and management practices to increase their earnings. They set up a budget for the year and planned their work. Their main crop was cotton, of course, but there were chickens and vegetables, too, to sell in nearby Indianola. And unlike most farmers in the area, they rotated their cotton with other crops and increased their yield.

So impressive were their management practices that a white planter employed Mr. Hull to manage his farm. Within a few years, he was managing a 3,000 acre plantation. He held this position until 1936—almost 20 years—when he decided to devote full time to his own 310-acre farm which he had bought piecemeal over the years. Later, he began leasing additional land.

Mr. and Mrs. Hull have four children—two sons and two daughters. One son, James L., is home. He drives one of the tractors and helps with the general operation of the farm and store. The other son, George, Jr., is a biology teacher at Tennessee State College, Nashville; and the two daughters live in Chicago.

"We are going to retire before too long," says Mr. Hull. "James will be able to carry on the farm. He practically runs it now," the father points out with satisfaction.



Added Income—Mr. and Mrs. George Elkin, who live near Indianola, Miss., don't believe in putting all their eggs in one basket. In addition to their 300 layers which produce about eight dozen eggs a day, they have forty acres of cotton, twenty of corn, a year-round truck patch and fourteen hogs.—USDA Photo.

$10,000 Per Year Farmer, Now Sixty, Still Looking Toward Better Things

WASHINGTON — At sixty, George Elkin of Sunflower County, Miss., has ambitious plans for further expanding his $10,000-a-year farming enterprise, according to M. M. Hubert of the Mississippi State Extension Service in a report received by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Within the next year or two, the farmer plans to increase his pig crop from fourteen head per year to fifty, and his poultry flock of 300 New Hampshire layers to about 1,000, in addition to his truck crop and cotton.

Mr. and Mrs. Elkin are the kind of patient farmers who make plans and then set about achieving them day by day on their eighty-eight acre farm near Indianola.

They started out as sharecroppers shortly after they were married forty years ago. Although they came out in debt the first year, they had established a credit rating and a reputation for hard work.

With their credit standing, the Elkins bought a sore-back mule, paying nothing down, and rented a small farm on the same basis. Thus they made their first step up a twenty-four-year ladder toward ownership.

They raised most of their own food that year, as they have done ever since, and they cleared enough to pay for the mule, pay the rent on the farm, buy a kitchen stove, and salt away $16 toward a farm of their own.

"By 1915, we had a couple of hundred dollars, enough to make a down payment on a farm, but we couldn't find one nearby with good land for sale," says Mr. Elkin.

So they waited through a war and a depression for a good buy. It came in 1936—forty acres right in their community. They bought it at $50 per acre.

Today, the Elkins own the forty acres and rent an additional forty-eight acres. Usually, forty acres are planted to cotton twenty to corn, one to a year-round garden truck patch, and the rest is devoted to pasture for their cow and calf, fourteen hogs and 300 layers. Receipts from their products average close to $10,000 a year. They sell eggs, chickens, butter, and vegetables in nearby Indianola.

They live in a modern home with electric lights, hot and cold running water, a bathroom and a kitchen sink. They built their home twelve years ago. Their two grown children live elsewhere.

60-Year-Old Pair Out To Expand $10,000 A Year Farming Project

Of FARMS and FARMERS

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE ELKIN (right) don't believe in putting all their eggs in one basket. In addition to their 300 layers, who produce about eight dozen eggs a day, they have 40 acres of cotton, 20 of corn, a year-round truck patch and 14 hogs. Here they look over their poultry flock with Agent R. E. Lee (left) who has helped them with their farming operations.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—At 60, George Elkin, Sunflower county, Miss., has ambitious plans for further expanding his $10,000-a-year farming enterprise, says State Leader M. M. Hubert of the Mississippi state extention service in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Within the next year or two, the farmer plans to increase his big crop from 14 head a year to 50, and his poultry flock of 300 New Hampshire layers to about 1,000, in addition to his truck crop and cotton, says the report.

Mr. and Mrs. Elkin are the kind of patient farmers who make plans and then set about achieving them day-by-day on their 88-acre farm near Indianola.

They started out as sharecroppers shortly afthr they were married 40 years ago. Although they were in debt after the first year, they had established a credit rating and a reputation for hard work.

With their credit standing, the Elkins bought a sore-back mule, paying nothing down, and rented a small farm on the basis. Thus they made their first step in a 24-year ladder toward ownership.

They raised most of their own food that year, as they have done ever since, and they cleared enough to pay for the mule, pay the rent on the farm, buy a new kitchen stove, and salt away $16 toward a farm of their own.

"By 1915, we had a couple of hundred dollars, enough to make a good down-payment on a farm, but we couldn't find one nearby with good land for sale," says Mr. Elkin.

So they waited through a war and a depression for a good buy. It came in 1936—40 acres right in their community. They bought it at $50 per acre.

Even at 60, the Elkins are not contented with their present production. They want to expand eggs and pork output. "I'd like to collect 20 dozen eggs a day," says Mrs. Elkin. She's collecting an average of five dogen, and Mr. Elkin is shooting for 50 porkers. He feels that he has at least 10 more good years of farming in his system.

Today, the Elkins own the 40 acres and rent an additional 48 acres. Usually, 40 acres are planted in cotton, 20 to corn, one to a year-round garden truck patch, and the rest is devoted to pasture for their cow and calf, 14 hogs, and 300 layers. Receipts from their products average close to $10,000 a year. They sell eggs, chickens, butter, and vegetables in nearby Indianola.

And they eat well themselves. Mrs. Elkin cans about 200 jars of fruits and vegetables every year, and Mr. Elkin usually puts a calf and a couple of hogs in the freezer locker.

They live in a modern home that they built 12 years ago. It has electric lights, hot and cold running water, a bathroom, and kitchen sink. Their two grown children do not live with them

Delighted Mississippi Negro Wins Cotton Picking Crown

(Pictures on Section Page)

By KEN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Oct. 5.—A frenziedly delighted 32-year-old Negro man from Clarksdale, Miss., was named the new cotton picking champion of the world here Friday.

10-6-51

Johnnie Johnson, father of five children and wearing a black felt hat which he waved wildly to the crowd, won the title and $1000 cash as the climax of the 12th annual National Cotton Picking Contest.

It was his first win and the second time a Negro has won the big event which Blytheville holds each year.

A three-time previous money winner, Mrs. Eugene Shinault of 46 South Tucker, Memphis, picked 77 pounds to be named winner in the Women's Division. The prize was $250 cash. Her husband, Eugene Shinault, who twice previously has won the championship, was in the first eight and drew $50 cash.

$2500 In Prizes

The judges gave out a total of $2500 in prizes to 29 winners named in the colorful event, which is sponsored by the Blytheville Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Friday's festivities, blessed with hot weather and sunshine most of the day, attracted several thousand spectators and also had the "official" sanction of Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas.

Senator Fulbright spoke in support of lowering export restrictions on cotton and praised the Southern cotton industry as vital to the entire Nation's economy.

The crowd got its biggest thrill — and laugh — when the judges named the grinning and shouting Johnson as winner of the show.

He shot out of the audience like a track man when his name was called, jumped several feet into the air and waved at the crowd, and almost had to be restrained when he dashed up to the judges' stand to be handed $1000 in crisp new $1 bills by master of ceremonies T. J. Bailey.

He Can Use It

"What are you going to do with the money?" he was asked.

"Well, I've got a wife and five children," the exultant winner said, and didn't have to explain further.

The only other Negro winner of the big contest was Elijah Gordon of Harrisburg, who took the title in 1942.

Johnson has been entering the contest since 1945 and plans to enter it again next year.

Incidentally, he said, he lives "in town" at Clarksdale, not on a farm. He picked 88 pounds of cotton in the two hours the pickers were in the field Friday.

Second place winner in the Open Division of the contest was Odell Mitchell, 22, of Bragg City, Mo., who picked 86 pounds, and third place went to Malcolm Gamling of Osceola, Ark., who picked 82 pounds Mitchell won $250 and Gamling $100.

Second place winner in the Women's Division was Mrs. Velier Ray of Steele, Mo., who won $100. Third place went to Mrs. Carley Krutz of Blytheville, who took home $50.

Sat. 10-6-51

A 75-year-old Negro woman won honors again this year in the "over 65" division. She is Mary Jones, who won the same division last year for the $50 offered.

An 11-year-old boy, who participated in a "family act," also won $50 for placing first in the "under 13" division. He is Alfred Wallis of Hornersville, Mo. Alfred was the youngest winner named, but his brother, 5-year-old Oran Wallis Jr., was the youngest contestant entered.

Winner of the last three championships, John Edd Anderson of Gobler, Mo., dropped down to a $50 prize in Friday's event, in picking 80 pounds of cotton.

Other $50 winners were Oliver Green of Leachville, Ark., Fritz West of Blytheville and Gene Adams of Leachville.

$25 Winners

The $25 winners, both men and women, were Everett Foster of Wilson, Ark., Paul H. Owen of Etowah, Ark., Lewis White Jr. of Paragould, Clifford Peterson of Blytheville, Katherine Boyd of Wilson, Bobby Parks of Rector, Bobbs Hopkins of Paragould, G. D. Shea of Blytheville, Thomas Shelton of Bono, Ark., Louise Daniels of Blytheville, Mrs. Arthur Bentley of Gideon, Mo., Ralph G. Lawson of Luxora, Almeda Lindley of Canalou, Mo., Lizzie Harris of Armorel, Ark., Mrs. Alta Hedge of Gideon and Mrs. Johnnie Arnold of Osceola.

A total of 127 pickers entered the 1951 contest, including pickers from Mexico, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, Tennessee, Illinois, Georgia and even California.

Judges were Ed Stacy, Foy Etchieson, James Smotherman and John F. Lenti, all of Mississippi County. Field attendants helping during the picking were members of the Future Farmers of America.

Loan Use Urged

Senator Fulbright was guest at a luncheon preceding the contest which included Mayor Doyle Henderson of Blytheville; Lippert Ellis, dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri; Roscoe Crafton of Blytheville, originator of the contest; officials of the Frisco and Cotton Belt Railroads, and Jack Meadows of Crossett, state president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Senator Fulbright told a grandstand audience that "if anybody should be interested in the export of cotton, it should be the people of Mississippi County."

He urged farmers to take advantage of storage loans which they can obtain through the Commodity Credit Corporation's plan of storing cotton and holding it for sale until prices are most favorable.

He said he believes the storage loan program will prove a "stabilizing influence" on cotton prices through this Winter and next Spring.

Heading arrangements for this year's contest were H. L. Halsell Jr., president of the Blytheville Jaycees, and Jim Gardner, general chairman of the contest. Blytheville merchants and others co-operated.

GREAT DAY!—Johnnie Johnson, 32-year-old Clarksdale, Miss., Negro, leaps skyward upon being informed that he won $1000 and title of "Cottonpicking Champion of the World." It was the second time a Negro had won.

THEY'RE OFF!—Competing for cash prizes, including a $1000 first prize, 127 cotton pickers got off to a fast start in the 12th annual National Cotton Picking Contest yesterday at Blytheville, Ark.

—Staff Telephoto by Bob Williams

SAME OLD STORY—For Mrs. Eugene Shinault (right) of 46 South Tucker, Memphis, the contest was an old story. She captured her fourth victory in the women's division of the contest. Here, she is congratulated by Miss Charley Ruth Blankenship, Miss Blytheville of 1951.

Sharecropper Corn Champion Sees Way To Farm Of His Own

Informer Sat. 1-6-51 Houston Tex.

Since sharecropper D.C. Washington, county corn production champion of Hollandale, Miss., learned to increase his yield and arrange to put more acres into this important feed crop, he sees how he may someday have a farm of his own.

A report of his first step toward the long range achievement was received last week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture from State Leader M. M. Hubert of the Mississippi State Extension Service.

Mr. and Mrs. Washington have been sharecropping since 1927 when the flood drowned their workstock-six mules and a horse. "Through 23 years, I have been trying to regain my lost ground," says the 53-year-old cropper, "but I have never been able to lay in enough feed to even think about owning a pair of mules."

However, this year it's different for Mr. Washington and his family. And largely because his county agent, Charles H. Burton, got him interested in the State corn production contest last year and helped him to arrange with his landlord to rent an extra acre on a cash basis so that he could become one of the contestants in Washington county.

Mr. Washington followed the agent's instructions carefully and pampered that acre of corn the way he did the first of his eight children. The results, 113 bushels — more corn than any other farmer in the county produced on a single acre. The average per acre yield for Mississippi and most of the South is less than 20 bushels.

With victory came a championship certificate, a trophy, and a free trip to the annual farmers conference at Alcorn, the State agricultural and mechanical college for Negroes. There, he heard other farmers relate what they were doing. A few were producing as much as 140 bushels of corn on their contest acre, and some were climbing into ownership by diversifying their cropping system.

Mr. Washington returned home more dissatisfied than ever. He went to his landlord and arranged to sharecrop 10 acres of corn in addition to his 10 acres of cotton "You know, Government cotton allotments heped me out," says Mr. Washington, "my boss said 'yes' right off."

This year, the Washingtons raised slightly over 900 bushels of corn or about 90 bushels per acre, and 10 bales of cotton. They got half of each crop. From their cotton, they actually cleared $700; and their corn crib and cotton house are bulging with corn.

The Washingtons plan to buy two mules and become cash renters next year. "You see, we can feed our mules right through the winter out of the corn crib and still have plenty for our cow and hogs," they point out.

And the whole family will eat well, too. Mrs. Washington has seen to that by growing a garden and canning a year-round food supply. Last summer, she canned 560 jars of fruits and vegetables.

The Washingtons' long-time dream is to become owners and leave a piece of land to their children. On a farm of their own, the corn champion says he would put a few head of beef cattle, and the part of it in pasture for hogs and rest in cotton and corn. The fact that all their children are now old enough to help gives them increased assurance that they can attain their goal.

Delta Negro Farm Owners Mark Day

GREENVILLE — (Special) — Latest farming methods being tested at the Delta Branch Experiment Station, Stoneville, were observed by some 2,000 Negro farmers of the Delta Wednesday.

The event was the 11th annual Field Day for Delta Negro farmers, sponsored by the experiment station.

Highlights of the experimental projects were explained by Dr. Grey Miley, superintendent of the station.

Following a tour of the experimental fields, several speakers discussed the general topic of "Agriculture in the Changing World of Today."

The current status of the Negro farmer in the Mississippi Delta was presented by Dr. A. H. Fuhr, Negro administrative officer of farm credit in Washington. He cited numerous facts and figures relating to the economic advancement of the Negro farmer. He emphasized the importance of utilizing the results of the experimental projects being conducted at the Stoneville station.

Holmes Negro Farm Families Guests

LEXINGTON — (Special) — Fifty business men and women of Lexington and 700 Negro farmers and their families recently enjoyed a barbecue and educational program at the first annual Negro Farmers Club picnic to be held in Holmes county. Sponsored by the Lexington Agricultural Development association composed of business and professional men and women of Lexington, the occasion was attended by out-of-town speakers which included Mrs. Elizabeth Pickett, district nutritionist, Mississippi State Board of Health, J. S. Therrell, extension forester, State College, and L. H. Moseley, district agent, Stoneville.

Additional speakers were Miss Joyce Williams, Holmes County home demonstration agent, W. R. Sullivan, county agent, E. R. Trotman, administrative officer, Production Marketing administration, T. A. Lail, LADA president, E. P. McMillan, state fire control service, Earl W. Lundy, LADA director, who was in charge and R. M. Branch, former president of Holmes Junior college. Also A. P. Johnson, Negro county agent, who was master of ceremonies for the occasion, and Daisy Anderson, Negro home agent who assisted in the foods demonstration.

The program began at 11 a. m. with a barbecue lunch served picnic style, followed by the afternoon sessions.

One-Time Day Laborer Now Manager 2,000-Acre Mississippi Plantation

GREENWOOD, Miss. — Charles J. Strong, who supervises a 2,000-acre section of a plantation near here, is one of the South's 442 Negro farm managers helping to produce record crops this year.

Manager of the O. F. Bledsoe plantation for the past 12 years, Strong is outstanding among the 58 managers in Mississippi. The veteran farmer expects to harvest more than 1,000 bales of cotton, 16,000 bushels of corn and 9,000 bushels of soybeans.

The 59-year-old manager rose up through the ranks from day-laborer to his present post. Prior to his elevation to manager, he was for 17 dears a foreman; and before that, one of the most popular tenants on the place. Strong supervises the entire operation of the huge tract. There are two other managers on the place, both white, who handle a similar acreage.

Working directly under him are more than 50 sharecroppers and hired hands. Most of the land, of course, is worked with the plantation's fleet of tractors.

Mr. and Mrs. Strong and their 11-year-old son, Nathaniel, live in a modern cottage on the plantation. Nathaniel is a 4-H'er, raising pigs as his chief project. But unlike many clubbers, he doesn't raise one or two pigs, but eight or ten. Nathaniel says he wants to be a livestock farmer when he grows up.

Extension Field Agents T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell of the U. S. Department of Agriculture report that the Southern managers, who have charge of 242,000 acres valued at more than $12,000,000, are directing the production of thousands of bales of cotton, millions of pounds of tobacco, hundreds of tons of peanuts, and thousands of heads of livestock.

Twelve of the Mississippi managers handle between 1,000 and 5,000 acres and one manages between 5,000 and 10,000 acres.

Of FARMS and FARMERS

CHARLES J. STRONG (left) an outstanding farm manager of Greenwood, Miss., helps his 4-H son, Nathaniel, keep a check on his pigs. The 11-year-old clubber believes in raising several pigs for market instead of one or two. At right is County Agent S. L. Hilton.

NEGRO FARMERS HEAR ADVICE ON ADVANCES

President Of Okolona College Talks At Jackson

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 21.—Negro participants in the State Vocational Agriculture Division's Farm Production Achievement Program were told Wednesday by a member of their race that "if a man would move the world, he must first move himself."

Speaking at Wednesday's rally here for the participants was President Walker M. Davs of Okolona College.

"We know that in the South one farmer in every four is a Negro and that there is one Negro in every 10 farmers in the Nation," he said. "We know that all of you are helping to furnish food and fiber at a time when it is needed most."

Asserting that the mechanical cotton picker has "caused some alarm among my race," President Davis said:

"I am glad to see the cotton picker mechanized. The tractor is now a farm necessity and I expect to see the day when the mechanical cotton picker will be recognized in the same light. I say I am glad to see the mechanical cotton picker coming to existance, and I say this because I believe that we will see more industry come to the South to absorb our labor problem. I did not vote but if I had I would have voted for the honorable Hugh White because of his BAWI program."

J. M. Tubb, state superintendent of education, expressed appreciation for the efforts and the advances made by Negro farmers of Mississippi.

In a special contest made possible by the young farmer organization, a first place prize of $35 was awarded Peter Sheppard, adult evening class student in vocational agriculture at Anguilla Colored School. Sheppard produced an average of 1195 pounds of lint cotton per acre on two acres.

A second prize of $25 for the production of 1084 pounds of lint cotton per acre on two acres was awarded to veteran farm trainee Clarence Andrews of Hinds County Agriculture High School for Negroes.

HELPING HIMSELF to the home freezer supply is two-year-old Arthur Lee Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Johnson, farm owners of Greenville, Miss. Twelve years ago, the Johnsons were sharecroppers, eking out a bare existence. Then the Farmers Home Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture made them a loan to buy a 55-acre farm. Family has progressed by leaps and bounds since then.

Mississippi Farmer Doubles Cotton Yield

Of FARMS and FARMERS

Typical of the thousands of Southern farmers who have doubled their cotton production in recent years is 51-year-old Elijah Johnson of Greenville, Miss., who expects to wind up the season with 60 bales. In previous years, the most cotton he ever raised was 26 bales.

To Johnson, and more than 500,000 other colored farmers in the 10 major cotton producing states of the South, goes much of the credit for this year's cotton crop of 15.7 million bales. And although threatened by bad weather and boll weevils which reduced their earnings two years in a row, these farmers came through with big crops.

The important role of Southern farmers in upping cotton production was highlighted recently by Extension Field Agents T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Twelve years ago Johnson would have been happy if he could have produced even six bales of cotton. It was about then that the Farm Security Administration — now the Farmers Administration — loaned him enough money to buy a mule, a little feed, seed, and some groceries to tide him over.

The next year, after studying Johnson's record of 10 years of sharecropping and 10 more as a struggling tenant, the agency loaned him $4,500 to buy the 55-acre farm he now owns in the Glenn Mary community near Greenville.

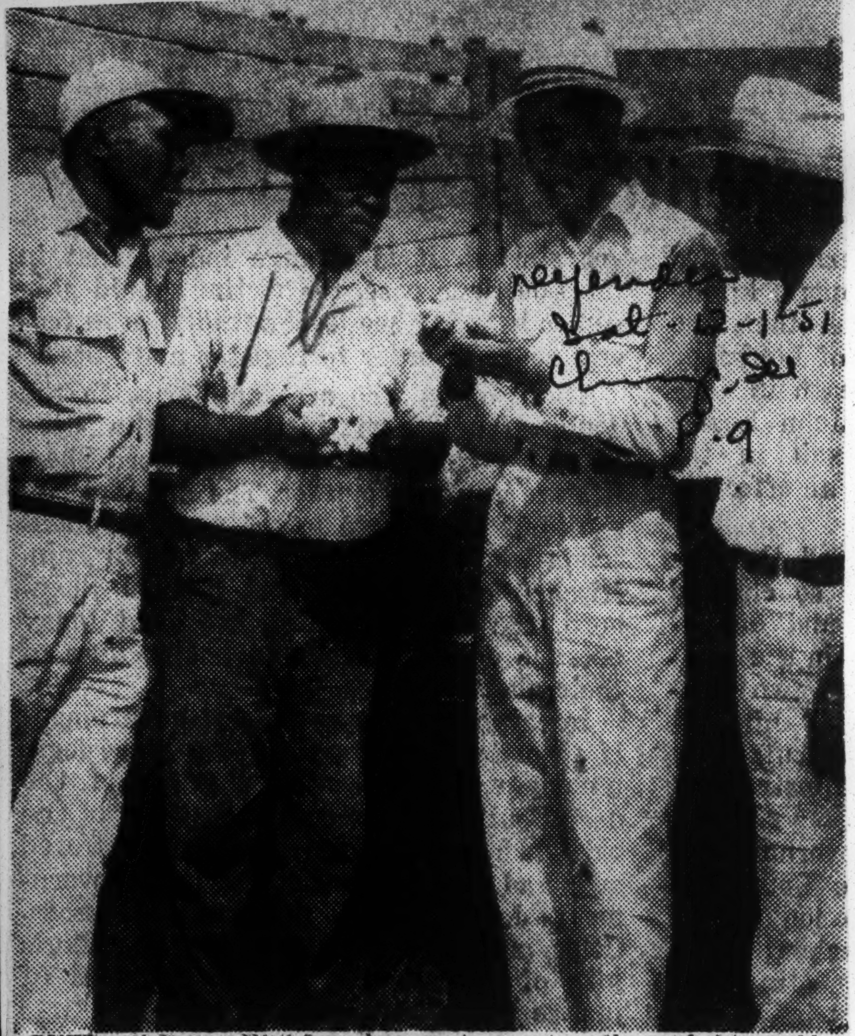
In addition to the land, the money covered the cost of a small modern home, another mule, a cow, and some fruit trees. "When I looked at these things that would one day be mine," says Johnson. "I felt for the first time I was getting ahead after 20 years of trying."

Year by year, with the aid of FHA Supervisor Delois McGee, and County Agent Charles Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have steadily increased their net worth. From the $100 worth of make-shift furniture and worn out farm implements they owned, when the Government made them a loan, to property valued at $15,000 is the jump they have made.

This property includes their farm, their enlarged and remodeled home, with a 36-inch exhaust fan to keep it cool in summer; a new stove and home freezer, a tractor and other modern equipment, two milk cows, 20 hogs, and 50 laying hens.

Although the Johnsons have five children, the only time they go to the grocery store is when they want sugar, flour, coffee, salt, or pepper. They grow the rest. "I'd like to buy a piece of meat sometimes just to see how it would feel," says Mrs. Johnson, looking at a pile of steaks and chops in her home freezer.

While the Johnsons went all out this year to help produce more cotton, they usually carry on a balanced farming program with soybeans, truck crops, corn, and livestock in addition to their cotton. For two years straight, 1948-49, Johnson won awards in the 100-bushel corn contest.



GETTING POINTERS from his county agent on the probable staple-length of his 60-bale crop is Elijah Johnson (2nd from left), who is typical of the thousands of Negro farmers who went all-out this year to help meet the need for increased cotton production. Left to right, Delois McGee, assistant county supervisor, Farmers Home Administration; Johnson; Charles Burton, county agent, and M. M. Hubert. state leader of extension work.—USDA photos.

Ex-Sharecropper Now Operates 1700 Acres

INDIANOLA, Miss.—By following good management practices, a migrant sharecropper, who arrived in the Mississippi Delta with only 60 cents in his pocket 40 years ago, now operates a 1,700-acre farm.

The former cropper is George Hull Sr., of Indianola, Miss. How he rose from a landless migrant to become one of the outstanding colored farmers of the South is contained in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from State Extension Leader M. M. Hubert of Mississippi.

Mr. Hull, says the report, is now a small cotton planter with 30 tenants on his place. During some good years, he and his tenants gross over $100,000. Also, he operates a modern grocery store on his farm and owns considerable property in the town of Indianola.

In recent years, with the help of his county agent, Robert A. Lee, he has been shifting part of his cotton acres to soybeans and hay crops. Mr. Hull says he plans to continue raising cotton, but he is also going to raise more hogs and some beef cattle.

On his 1,700 acres, 310 of which he owns and the rest he rents under a long-term lease, Mr. Hull plants 500 acres to cotton, 300 to corn interplanted with soybeans, and 200 to hay. The rest is in woodland and undeveloped pasture.

Most of his corn yield of 50 bushels per acre is fed to his expanding pig herd, although some of its goes to market, and some to the idle mules on the place. He doesn't know what to do about these animals. Now that he has five tractors and a combine, they are seldom harnessed, but he keeps them mostly for sentimental reasons.

Mr. and Mrs. Hull migrated from south to Natchez to Indianola in 1911. "We had a suitcase and 60 cents between us," says the planter.

They sharecropped from farm to farm near the town for four years. By raising as much of their food as they could, they finally saved up enough to make the down-payment on a mule and blind horse. "Together, they cost us $135," Mr. Hull recalls.

Now that they had workstock, the Hulls rented 30 acres, and set about employing improved farming and management practices to increase their earnings. They set up a budget for the year and planned their work. Their main crop was cotton, of course, but there were chickens and vegetables, too, to sell in nearby Indianola. And unlike most farmers in the area, they rotated their cotton with other crops and increased their yield.

So impressive were their management practices that a white planter employed Mr. Hull to manage his farm. Within a few years, he was managing a 3,000-acre plantation. He held this position until 1936 — almost 20 years—when he decided to devote full time to his own 310-acre farm which he had bought piecemeal over the years. Later, he began leasing additional land.

STARTED OUT WITH 60 CENTS.—George Hull Sr., right, standing by one of the five tractors on his 1,700-acre farm at Indianola, Miss., migrated to the community as a sharecropper with only 60 cents in his pocket 40 years ago. At left is County Agent Robert A. Lee. Mr. Hull credits his success to good farm management practices—USDA Photo.

Mr. and Mrs. Hull have four children—two sons and two daughters. One son, James L., is home. He drives one of the tractors and helps with the general operation of the farm and store. The other son, George Jr., is a biology teacher at Tennessee State college, Nashville; and the two daughters live in Chicago.

"We are going to retire before too long," says Mr. Hull. "James will be able to carry on the farm. He practically runs it now," the father points out with satisfaction.

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not only in its direct relationship to crime but as a destructive force undermining morals, mind and health.

In all his career, Dr. Lichtenstein says, he has never seen anything like the marked increase in addiction among teen-agers such as now prevails in New York city and other large cities.

"Only those who come into daily contact with the problem, as I do, can appreciate the full horror of this situation," he said. "The spreading drug habit is sapping at the very foundations of our society through its youth."

As he and other authorities see it, an intensified campaign of education, as well as of law enforcement, is needed to alert the public to the danger.

CAN LEAD TO TORTURE

The users and potential users among teen-agers must be convinced, medical experts say, that the drug scourge can lead only to physical and mental torture, degradation and possibly death. And parents, they add, should learn to recognize early symptoms of drug use.

Dr. Lichtenstein says that suspicious symptoms which should be investigated include these:

A child is markedly depressed, complains of aches and pains and fatigue, then unaccountably brightens up for brief periods and says he feels much better.

A running, inflamed nose, vomiting, lethargy, disinterest in the home and school....all are signs that the child may be taking drugs.

Perhaps the least of the physical harm caused by drugs is the mass of scars and discolorations left on the emaciated bodies of the "mainliner" addicts, says Dr. Lichtenstein.

HEROIN — NO. 1 SCOURGE

The addicts sometime start with several other methods, such as sniffing heroin, which is the number one scourge in New York. But their nostrils become so inflamed they cannot continue this method —or else their nervous system demands quicker results.

Then they take to the needle. The "Mainliner's" crude equipment, which they call "the works", consists of a hypodermic needle, a spoon and an eye dropper.

Their bootleg heroin comes in capsules, containing about a grain and a half of powdered heroin. With a lighted match they heat and dissolve the heroin in a few drops of water in the spoon.

They they suck up the liquid in the eye-dropper, to which the hypodermic needle is attached, puncture a vein and inject. The effect is almost immediate.

NO STERILIZATION

The "poppers" as distinguished from the mainliners, inject the drug merely under their skin. There is no sterilization, of course, and soon their bodies are covered with sores and scars.

The New York Police Narcotics squad says that a "cap" of heroin sells from $1 up, depending on the neighborhood and the means of the purchaser.

The average addict must have two or three "caps" a day, many need much more.

Aside from its inherent evil, the drug habit is costly, thus inducing crime. A witness in a recent case testified that he had been an addict for 25 years, or since he was 15. The drug cost him about $120 a week, he said, and he admittedly never has worked a day in his life.

This man is an habitual thief and has been, most of his life, stealing to get money to buy his drug. He has a record of many convictions. The police cite his case as typical of confirmed drug addicts.

"Many of the juveniles among the addicts," said Dr. Lichtenstein, "come from broken homes and addiction is a direct result of domestic unhappiness. Some are emotionally unstable to begin with, but we also find some good, decent families who yielded to the temptation to 'try it just once'."

He said that in slum areas, where privation and misery are great, whole families turn to drugs as a form of escape—anything to give them temporary relief.

It is a short-lived relief for which they pay in pain and sorrow.

NEGROES NOW OWN $50,000,000 IN FARM LAND IN MISSISSIPPI

PINE BLUFF, Ark. -- The information specialist said that although 25,000 colored farmers in Mississippi own farms valued at more than 50 million dollars, many along in years are carrying on along while their children work in cities thousands of miles away. He urged the farmers to study the feasibility of making father and son agreements in the operation of the farm.

During the opening session, Dr. Otis stressed the importance of balanced farming. He said he was trying to get a large creamery to establish a plant in the Natchez-Vicksburg area to help encourage increased milk production in this section.

Specialists who conducted the demonstrations were: A. L. McLaughlin, associate extension dairy specialist; E. S. Burke, head of the poultry husbandry division at Alcorn; T. M. Bell, assistant agronomist at Alcorn; Miss Dorothy G Gordon, head of Alcorn's home economics department; Mrs. Alicia L Ammons, head of the home management division; and Miss Eva Leggett, state specialist in consumer education.

The clothing demonstration was climaxed with a style revue, "Silhouett in Sacks," directed by Mr. H. L. Gray, deistric home agent. Thirty-one farm women from 27 counties took part in the review, wearing dresses and accessories for all occasions made from flour sacks, feed bags and fertilizer sacks. The accessories displayed included hats, bags and umbrellas.

The Farm and Home Week event is sponsored jointly by Alcorn College and the Negro division if the state extension service, headed by M. M. Hubert.

John A. Jackson, director of Agriculture at Alcorn handled the general arrangements and presided over two of the sessions. Thirty-one farm and 37 home agents attended the event along with farmers.

White Gold—Typical of the thousands of colored farmers who went all out this year to help meet the need for increased cotton production is Elijah Johnson, second from left, of Greenville, Miss. Left to right are Delois McGee, assistant county supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration; Mr. Johnson, Charles Burton, county agent, and M. M. Hubert, state leader of extension work.—USDA Photo.

Over Half-Million Pitch in On Record Output

Farmers Helping Double Dixie's Cotton Production

Much of the credit for this year's cotton crop of 15.7 million bales goes to the colored farmers of the South, who, as always, played an important role in upping the production, say extension field agents T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

More than 500,000 colored farmers in the ten major cotton producing states of the South from the Carolinas to Oklahoma and Texas, pitched in to help meet the nation's need for this important fiber crop. And although threatened by bad weather and boll weevils which reduced their earnings two years in a row, these farmers came through with big crops.

DOUBLING PRODUCTION

Typical of the many farmers who doubled their production is 51-year-old Elijah Johnson of Greenville, Miss., who expects to wind up with sixty bales. In previous years, the most cotton he ever raised was twenty-six bales.

Twelve years ago he would have been happy if he could have produced even six bales. It was about then that the Farm Security Administration — now the Farmers Home Administration — loaned him enough money to buy a mule, a little feed, seed and some groceries to tide him over.

The next year, after studying Mr. Johnson's record of ten years of sharecropping and ten more as a struggling tenant, the agency loaned him $4,500 to buy the fifty-five-acre farm he now owns in the Glenn Mary community near Greenville.

In addition to the land, the money covered the cost of a small, modern home, another mule, a cow, and some fruit trees. "When I looked at these things that would one day be mine," says Mr. Johnson, "I felt for the first time that I was getting ahead after twenty years of trying."

Year by year, with the aid of FHA Supervisor Delois McGee and County Agent Charles Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have steadily increased their net worth. From the $100 worth of makeshift furniture and worn-out farm implements they owned when the Government made them a loan, to property valued at $15,000 is the jump they have made.

This property includes their farm, their enlarged and remodeled home, with a thirty-six-inch exhaust fan to keep it cool in summer; a new stove and home freezer, a tractor and other modern equipment, two milk cows, twenty hogs and fifty laying hens.

HAVE 5 CHILDREN

Although the Johnsons have five children, the only time they go to the grocery store is when they want sugar, flour, coffee, salt or pepper. They grow the rest. "I'd like to buy a piece of meat sometimes just to see how it would feel," says Mrs. Johnson, looking at a pile of steaks and chops in her home freezer.

While the Johnsons went all-out this year to help produce more cotton, they usually carry on a balanced farming program with soybeans, truck crops, corn and livestock, in addition to their cotton. For two years straight, 1948-1949, Mr. Johnson won awards in the 100-bushel corn contest.

When the urgent need for cotton is satisfied, Mr. Johnson plans to reorganize his farm so as to shift almost entirely from cotton to cattle and hogs and permanent pastures. Mr. McGee and Mr. Burton have helped him develop plans for putting the reorganization into effect within the next few years.

FARM AND HOME WEEK—At the recent Farm and Home Week program at Alcorn A. and M. College, various demonstrations were put on by experts in those fields. Top left: T. M. Bell, center, assistant agronomist and superintendent of the Alcorn farm, shows the seeding of an improved pasture. Top right: These farmers and agricultural agents look over Alcorn's new bottle washer for its modern dairy now under construction. Bottom left: Miss Dorothy G. Gordon, head of the college home economics department, shows a group of farm women various methods of marking the hem-line of a dress. Bottom right: A group looks at the Alcorn dairy now under construction. It will be one of the most modern in any of the nation's Land Grant colleges.—USDA Photos.

Courier Sat. 8-25-51 Pittsburgh, Pa.

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197 Awards Given at Miss. Farm, Home Fete

ALCORN, Miss.—Practical methods of better farming and home-making were demonstrated by specialists at Alcorn A. and M. College before nearly 500 farm people in attendance at the fourth annual Farm and Home Week program, Aug. 13-15.

Demonstrations ranged from the selection and care of dairy animals and the seeding of improved pastures to the making of clothing and the operation and care of modern household appliances.

AWARDS PRESENTED

An important feature of the three-day program was the presentation of awards to 156 farmers and 41 homemakers for significant accomplishments. All of the farmers who received awards produced over 100 bushels of corn last year on one-acre demonstration plots; and all of the women winners had completed at least six years of outstanding work in home improvement.

Winner of the top award in corn production is 32-year-old John Hobbs of Nesbitt, Miss. He raised 191 bushels on his acre plot. Mr. Hobbs received the Bankers' Association Award and $35 in cash from the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. Runners-up are: Ed Frost of Carter, Rubbin Crawford of Hernando, and G. W. Vaughn of Philadelphia, Miss. Each received a certificate and a cash award.

Dr. J. R. Otis, president of Alcorn, made the presentation prior to delivery of the principal address by S. W. Box, Extension marketing leader and manager of the Farmers Central Market at Jackson, Miss. He was introduced by Commissioner of Agriculture St. Corley.

MORE SIDELINE CROPS

Emphasizing the theme of the program "Better rural living through a balanced farming program," Mr. Box urged the farmers to raise more sideline crops such as milk, poultry, eggs, and fruits and vegetables along with cotton in a diversified cropping system.

The marketing specialist pointed out that considerable quantities of milk, eggs, and fruits and vegetables are shipped into Mississippi every year. "You can produce more of these things for Mississippi consumers," he declared.

Other speakers on the program during the week were Sherman Briscoe, information specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Otis. Mr. Briscoe discussed better methods of raising the framer's most important crop—his children with a view toward having at least one of them remain home to help keep the farm in top production.

The information specialist said that although 25,000 colored farmers in Mississippi own farms valued at more than fifty million dollars, many along in years are carrying on alone while their children work in cities thousands of miles away. He urged the farmers to study the feasibility of making father and son agreements in the operation of the farm.

BALANCED FARMING

During the opening session, Dr. Otis stressed the importance of balanced farming. He said he was trying to get a large creamery to establish a plant in the Natchez-Vicksburg area to help encourage increased milk production in this section.

Specialists who conducted the demonstrations were: A. L. McLaughlin, associate extension dairy specialist; E. S. Burke, head of the poultry husbandry division at Alcorn; T. M. Bell, assistant agronomist at Alcorn; Miss Dorothy G. Gordon, head of Alcorn's home economics department; Mrs. Alicia L. Ammons, head of the home management division; and Miss Eva Leggett, State specialist in consumer education.

The clothing demonstration was climaxed with a style revue, "Silhouette in Sacks," directed by Mrs. H. L. Gray, district home agent. Thirty-one farm women from twenty-seven counties took part in the review, wearing dresses and accessories for all occasions made from flour sacks, feed bags, and fertilizer sacks. The accessories displayed included hats, bags, and umbrellas.

The Farm and Home Week event is sponsored jointly by Alcorn College and the Negro division of the State Extension Service, headed by M. M. Hubert, who is assisted by W. E. Ammons, Mrs. D. M. Lewis, Mrs. H. L. Gray, Miss Alberta Dishmon, and G. C. Cypress.

John A. Jackson, director of agriculture at Alcorn, handled the general arrangements and presided over two of the sessions. Thirty-one farm and thirty-seven home agents attended the event along with the farmers.

'Rags To Riches' Tale Of Mississippi Farmer

JACKSON, Miss.—Like a "rags to riches" tale is the humble story of Cleveland Waters, a Mississippi farmer who in three short years has risen from the plight of a sharecropper to the security of an independent landowner.

Waters and his wife, Lola, reside in the all-colored community of Mount Olive, on route 1, Lake, Miss., where they exercise thrift and initiative and adhere to a strict live-at-home policy.

They preserve for their own consumption meat, fruit and vegetables from their farm and use money made from the sale of eggs for the purchase of staple groceries.

Waters served in the army during World War II for nearly three years, most of the time spent overseas in the European theater. Prior to entering the service he had been a sharecropper since he quit public work as a railroad section hand in 1928.

E. T. Hawkins, vocational agriculture teacher and superintendent of the Scott County Training school, says that Waters is one who plans his program in advance and then tries his best to carry it out.

"When I started my farm training I was a renter and owned one mule. My total net worth was less than $1,000, which was the case until three years ago when I bought this 84 acre farm with a 20-year loan.

"The farm cost in the neighborhood of $5,000 and I only owe about $1,000 now with 17 years to pay that in. My records show that my personal net worth is now a little better than $10,000," Waters unassumingly said as he patiently answered a barrage of questions fired at him.

He said that he made six bales of cotton on 4.1 acres last year. This year he made seven bales and 6 1/4 acres in addition to crops which he shared with his one tenant renter.

He averaged about 60 bushels of corn per acre on 5 1/4 acres. He is in line to receive certificates in both cotton and corn in the 1951 Farm Production Achievement contest.

He has planted three acres in oats and wild winter peas which is followed by White Dutch clover and Dallis grass.

A beef herd has been started with six grade cows and a half breed Hereford bull. Waters plans to replace the bull with a registered one.

The Waters have about 75 hens and later on plan to specialize in broilers. They keep a boar and four sows and sell approximately 50 pigs each year.

They now own a tractor, mower, rake and enough equipment for five mules.

In spite of severe cold weather last winter they received 40 bushels of peaches from a one-half acre orchard. most of which they sold, canning only what they needed for their own consumption. They canned 350 quarts of fruit and vegetables besides the meat which they needed.

Since acquiring the farm, Waters has built a barn and tenant house, repaired and painted his home to which he added two rooms. He has bought furniture for all rooms and has modern bathroom fixtures ready to be installed as soon as he can put in a septic tank and sewage disposal field.

The house is equipped with REA electricity, butane gas heat and space heaters, and running water. Cleveland dug a well and installed a shallow well electric pump. He had a second pond dug on the farm last year which he believes saved his stock.

NFA DELEGATES

Registration Begins Today At The Butler Street YMCA

Daily World

On the eve of the opening session of the Seventeenth National Convention of New Farmers of America, interest is mounting as Atlanta prepares to welcome a record number of NFA boys, their advisers and their guests. This marks the third consecutive year that Atlanta has enjoyed this single honor.

Today's program will feature meetings of the National NFA Chorus, Registration, Joint Meeting of the National Advisory Council and the National Board of Trustees, and Rehearsals and Meetings in preparation for the various ceremonies and contests which will take place during the week.

Following a General Assembly on Monday morning the group will attend the Southeastern Fair where the National Judging Contest will take place at 1:30 p. m. and an NFA Program will be rendered from the Southeastern Fair Grandstand at 4:00 p. m. The Honorable William Hartsfield, Mayor of Atlanta, will welcome the entire Delegation at its opening session in the Exhibit Hall. Municipal Hall. at 7:30 p. m. Also featured on the program will be addresses by Hal Davis, National FFA Vice-President and Colonel Earl Norman, Attorney at Law, Washington, Georgia.

Tuesday will be devoted to reports, the National Quartette, Talent and Quiz Contests and and the committee meeting. This day will be known as Georgia-Alabama Day and large delegations from each of these states are expected to be present.

The convention will be honored by the Atlanta Night program at 8:00 p. m. under the direction of Mr. C. L. Gidons. The delegation will be assured of a wonderful night of entertainment since a great deal of care has been exercised in selecting the persons who are to appear on the program.

The report of Calvin Ijames, National President, will introduce the presentations of the work of the National Officers on Wednesday morning. This session will also mark the National Public Speaking Contest and the presentation of parents and guests.

Sports enthusiasts will be provided the opportunity to view the World Series Baseball Game on TV at the Municipal Auditorium at 1:00 p. m. At 5:00 p. m. the delegates will vote on their officers for the 1951-52 year.

An address by Raymond C. Firestone, Vice President, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, will follow the presentation of awards and the Star Superior Farmer Ceremony on Wednesday night. At this time representatives of the FFA Foundation Donors will also be introduced.

The final session on Thursday morning will include the awards to Talent, Quiz, Quartette, Public Speaking and Judging Contest winners. Immediately following this activity, the newly elected officers will be installed and the convention will close with an address by C. L. Ellison, Director, School of Agriculture, Fort Valley, Georgia.

Atlanta Ga 9-30-51

New Farmers Of America In Conclave In Atlanta

Journal and Guide

ATLANTA, Ga. — The 17th annual national convention of the New Farmers of America will be held in the Municipal Auditorium, here, Sept. 30-Oct. 4.

The New Farmers of America is a national organization for Negro students of vocational agriculture, in the public schools which operates under the provision of the National Vocational Acts. It is an educational, non-political, nonprofit farm youth organization of voluntary membership, designed to develop agricultural leadership, character, thrift, cooperation, citizenship, and patriotism.

Sept. 29, 51

The national president who will preside at the convention is Calvin Ijames, Mocksville, N. C., and the adult officers who will assist the boy officers in conducting the affairs of the conventions are: D. C. Jones, national adviser, Langston University, Langston, Okla.; J. R. Thomas, national executive secretary, Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.; S. B. Simmons, national executive treasurer, A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C.; and W. N. Elam, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

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THE NATIONAL organization of New Farmers of America has grown rapidly in membership during the past 17 years and it is recognized as the largest organization of Negro farm boys in the world.

Norfolk, Va.

National headquarters is maintained in the Agricultural Education Service of the U. S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C. The New Farmers of America has a local chapter in almost every Negro high school that has a department of vocational agriculture. The organization has at present 34,228 active and 7,604 associate members making a grand total of 41,832 NFA members in the organization.

The major purpose of the NFA organization is to help farm boys better prepare themselves to become successful farmers.

THE CONVENTION program includes an address of welcome by William Hartsfield, Mayor of the city of Atlanta; a chorus of 75 trained voices that will sing Negro spirituals, and other appropriate songs.

On Monday, Oct. 1, NFA livestock judging teams from 16 states will contest for honors at the Southeastern Fair Grounds in Atlanta. Wednesday night, Oct. 3, at the Municipal Auditorium, over $9,000 will be awarded winners in farming activities, including livestock judging, farm mechanics, farm electrification, soil and water management, star superior farmer or the boy farmer award and the H. O. Sargent award for young adult farmers who are former students of vocational agriculture.

Wednesday night many of the donors and their representatives of the FFA Foundation will attend the program in person. The FFA Foundation is made up of business and industrial concerns that contribute over $100,000 annually for the state and national awards for both the Future Farmers and the New Farmers of America. The major purpose of the FFA Foundation is to assist farm boys throughout the United States in becoming established in farming.

500 Delegates To Attend New Farmers Meeting

More than 500 delegates from 17 southern states are expected to attend the 17th National Convention of New Farmers of America to meet in Exhibit Hall, Municipal auditorium, here September 30 to Oct. 4, according to W. T. Johnson, chairman of the publicity committee.

Jhnn 9-20-51

A national organization for farm boys studying vocational agriculture education in states where separate schools are maintained for Negroes, the New Farmers of America has a membership of more than 45,000.

Atlanta, Ga.

During the convention, the boys will participate in judging livestock, leadership activities, awarding various degrees, and conducting business activities of the organization.

Awards will be given to boys for outstanding achievements in vocational agriculture and NFA work.

Speakers at the convention will include:

Mayor Hartsfield of Atlanta; Hal Davis, national Free Farmers of America vice president; Col. Earl Norman, attorney, Washington, Ga.; Horace D. Millhone Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. official, and C. L. Ellison, director School of Agriculture, Fort Valley State College, Ga.

Officers of the organization include:

Calvin I. James, president; K. H. Malone, Jr., 1st vice president; Beverly L. Taylor, 2nd vice president; Richard Jackson, 3rd vice president; John D. Rogers, secretary, and William Flakes, treasurer.

Negro Extension Service -(Mississippi)

Negro Extension Workers Meeting Here This Week

Daily News Jackson 11-7-51

Mississippi Negro extension service workers, meeting here for a three-day session, were commended by Mississippi State College administrators for their role in accomplishing agricultural advances of the past several years.

Dr. Fred T. Mitchell, president of Mississippi State College, and Dr. Clay Lyle, extension director, were two of the foremost speakers for the occasion.

Dr. Mitchell praised the 4-H training center near Canton where last summer Negro rural youths held a camp program. He also stated that Alcorn A. and M. college, where many of the Mississippi Negro extension workers are trained, "can be as great an institution as can be found anywhere."

Dr. Lyle pointed out that last year 156 Negro farmers were recognized for producing 100 or more bushels of corn per acre.

Also speaking to the delegates was M. S. Shaw, associate extension director, and Miss Earle Gaddis, special assistant to the state home demonstration agent. Miss Gaddis said the North Mississippi Negro home demonstration council, which she said is probably the first of its kind in the nation. Mr. Shaw urged greater farming efficiency to make livestock and farm production of $100 to $125 per acre.

Four pioneer Negro county agents were honored. They are G. W. Bryant, Pike county; T. M. Moman, Sr., Jones county; and deceased agents, David Capshaw, Sunflower county; A. B. Morant, Leflore county. Mississippi's first Negro county agent was employed in Jefferson Davis county in 1913. The first Negro home demonstration agent was employed in 1916.

More Negroes Now

Extension Workers Increases

WASHINGTON—A recent report issued by Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture shows that the number of Negro Extension workers increased this year by sixteen agents. Courier

The number of supervisors, farm and home demonstration agents, and 4-H Club agents now stands at 846. A year ago, there were 830 such workers. And a comparison of the current report with that of ten years ago indicates that the Negro personnel of Extension Service in the seventeen states in the Southern region has increased by 297 or 54 per cent. Sat. 11-3-51

N. C. LEADS

During the same period, the number of white Extension workers in the South increased from 3,600 to 5,021 or 39 per cent. Total Extension workers for the nation rose from 9,148 to 12,642 between 1941 and 1951.

Greatest increase in Negro personnel took place in North Carolina which added fifty workers during the ten-year period; Georgia is second with thirty; Mississippi, third with twenty-eight; Virginia, fourth with twenty-five, and Texas, fifth with twenty-one. Percentage-wise, West Virginia led the South, increasing its workers from five to sixteen or by 200 per cent.

$250 H. O. Sargent Award

Tar Heel Wins Top NFA Prize

Over 1,000 New Farmers of America Attend 17th Annual Convention in Atlanta; Georgian Elected President

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES

ATLANTA—Frank Battle of Enfield, N. C., won the H. O. Sargent Award last week in top competition at the seventeenth annual New Farmers of America convention here. The $250 prize is given annually to the most successful Negro farmer who is a former student of vocational agriculture and who has not been out of school for more than ten years.

James Burgess Newell, of Littleton, N. C., was declared "Star Superior Farmer" winning $243 for progressive farming.

Sectional Sargent Award winners were Marshall L. Jefferson, of Angie, La., and George Burke, of Gainesville, Fla., each receiving $125.

Superior Farmers of the 1951 meeting, besides Newell, included Efferege Taylor of Loxley, Ala.; Raymond L. Moore of Whitakers, N. C.; Clifton Copeland of Suffolk, Va.; Donald G. Carter of Zuni, Va., and Lloyd Wallace Grant of Burlington, N. C.

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PRAISE DONORS

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INDIVIDUAL SCORERS

Boys making high individual scores, according to their ranking, included: Alfonso Morris, Arkansas; Isaac O. Williams, Coffeyville, Ala.; D. C. Byrd, Sarasota, Fla.; John Johnson, Hopkinsville, Ky.; Ernest Young, South Carolina; Damon Lewis, Florida; Elroy Johnson Jr., Texas; William Lee, Utica, Miss.; Wilson Taylor, Carthage, N. C., and Harvey Simmons, Calhoun, La.

The New Farmers of America reported considerable progress over the vear 1950-51. It has a total active membership of 35,207—4,330 of whom filed applications in farm and home improvement and 3,454 in farm mechanics. Over 19,000 former NFA members are now farming and approximately 5,000 are farm owners.

Chapter contests, radio programs and preparation and publication of news articles claimed the major attention in leadership training. Nearly 10,000 members carried out acceptable thrift practices. Over 1,000 NFA members and supervisors attended the Atlanta meetings held at City Auditorium and Butler Street YMCA.

West Virginia NFA Holds State Convention

INSTITUTE, W. Va. — The West Virginia Association of New Farmers of America completed a very successful state convention at West Virginia State College May 1-4.

The convention delegates of more than 130 boys representing 6 schools in the state heard addresses by several outstanding personalities. Dr. John W. Davis, president of West Virginia State College, praised the work of the boys. He added that "New Farmers are being trained to use scientific methods in producing more and better products on less land than the old and present day farmers."

He said that "farmers need to adhere to scientific methods of farming. The world is looking for a change and you, as new farmers, will help to bring about this change." He pointed out specific examples of achievements being made in agriculture as a result of training.

The Rev. Ernest Clark, pastor, Simpson Methodist Church, pointed out that the way to become a good leader will be difficult, but as youths, you must have strong determination in spite of difficulty.

* * *

MADISON BROADNAX, director of agriculture, pointed out to the youths the opportunities offered in the field of agriculture. H. N. Hansucker, state supervisor of vocational agriculture education, told the boys that what they do now will have a great deal to do with what they will be in the future. He pointed out the possibilities of home gardens, home improvement, soil management, etc.

Other individuals included on the program were John M. Lowe, state director of vocational education; Robert Kitchen, professor of business administration, who installed the state officers; Beverly Taylor, national second vice-president, Virginia State College, Petersburg; Leroy Clark, president of the Collegiate Chapter; Willa Lipscombe, Helen Lee and Patricia Johnson, representing the New Homemakers of America; and Guy E. Cain, administrative executixe secretary of the NFA, division of vocational education.

The boys on May 3 celebrated Founder's Day at West Virginia State College. At this time, S. E. Warren, a graduate of the colleg[e] and adviser of the Stratton Chap[ter], spoke briefly on the develop[ment] of the college. Mrs. A. W. Curtis, one of the institution's firs[t] graduates and wife of the first di[rector] of agriculture, also parti[cipated] on this program.

* * *

W. T. JOHNSON, state adviser declared that each year the con[vention] improves and congratu[lated] the boys and advisers on th[e] effort that is being put forth i[n] carrying out a desirable agricul[ture] program. He also said tha[t] the leadership training the boy[s] are receiving in agriculture certainly should improve the living conditions in the communities where the departments are located.

New officers elected are as follows: George T. Zeigler, Byr... Prillerman Chaper, Amigo, president; Winifred Stone, DuBois Chapter, M. Hope, vice-president; Charles Brunswick, Page Jackson Chapter, Charles Town, secretary; Willie Chislton, Stratton, Beckley, treasurer; and Heywood Smith, Institute Chapter, Institute, reporter.

LA. NEGRO BOYS MEET AT CAPITAL

Youths Attend New Farmers of America Convention

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Baton Rouge, June 2—Negro high school boys from throughout the state attended Friday's program of the state convention, Louisiana Association of New Farmers of America held here at Southern university. The organization is affiliated with the national Negro farm boys vocational agricultural organization.

Richard Jackson, Monticello, Ga., representing the national organization, urged boys to select and develop strong supervised farming programs adapted to the areas they represent. He said that the South offers a challenge to any youth interested in furthering the cause of agricultural development of his community.

Dr. W. J. Parent, supervision agent, state department of education, urged continued interest in the total educational program of the state and an increasing development of the schools that are training the New Farmers of America.

Dr. Felton G. Clark, president, Southern university, stressed the need of increased number of boys interested in the farming industry. J. W. Fisher, director of agriculture, Southern university, stressed the importance of the agricultural programs now taught in state schools. Advisors of the New Farmers state program are M. J. Clark and C. H. Chapman.

Saturday's program will feature conferring of awards and the election of organizational officers.

NATIONAL OFFICERS of the New Farmers of America confer with adult advisors prior to the opening session of the seventeenth national convention at the city Auditorium. The NFA, an organization of over 35,000 members, is designed to develop agricultural leadership among farm boys in public secondary schools. Shown from left to right are, D. C. Jones, (Seated) National Advisor, Langston, Okla.; J. R. Thomas, National Secretary, Petersburg, Va.; B. L. Taylor, 2nd Vice President, South Hill, Va.; F. T. Thompson, Acting Secretary, Jonesville, La.; Calvin Ifames, National President, Mockesville, N. C.; C. W. Brunswick, Acting Reporter, Boliver, West Virginia; William Flakes, National Treasurer, South Bay, Fla.; K. H. Malone, 1st Vice President, Huntsville, Texas; and Richard Jackson, 3rd Vice President, Monticello, Ga. Over 800 delegates from 16 states will meet here for 5 days. — (Perry Photo).

NFA Members Win Awards

17th Convention Held in Atlanta

ATLANTA—The Wednesday session of the 17th annual New Farmers of America Convention was highlighted by the presentation of awards to NFA members. Cash awards are provided by the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., which is supported by cash donations from individuals, organizations, business and industrial concerns.

The convention was held Sept. 30- Oct. 4.

Boys from Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Alabama received the honors. The Judging Team from Missouri won the National Livestock Judging Contest.

Frank Battle of Enfield, N.C., won the H. O. Sargent $250 award. This sum is for the most successful farmer who is a former student of vocational agriculture and who has not been out of school for more than 10 years. Sectional winners of $125 each were Marshall L. Jefferson, Angie, La., and George Burke, Gainesville, Fla.

Farm Award

James B. Newell won the Star Superior Farmer Award. He hails from Littleton, N.C., and is owner of a prosperous farm of 26 acres. The Future Farmers of America Foundation in recognition of this individual's outstanding accomplishments, presented him $243.03.

Efferege Taylor of Laxley, Ala., was named Sectional Star Superior Farmer and received $125. Other recipients were Raymond L. Moore Whitakers, N.C.; Clifton Copeland, Suffolk, Va.; Donald Carter, Zuni, Va.; and Lloyde Grant, Burlington, N.C.

In Dairy Farming, Seth Guy, 18, of Franklinton, La., won the first prize of $100. Winning $50 each in this division were Robert Pullian, 17, of Mocksville, N.C., and Harold Alexander 16, of Gallatin, Tenn.

Built Equipment

Albert J. Britton, 19, NFA Chapter of Calhoun La., received national honors of $100. Young Britton has built much of his farm equipment. Two other NFA members won sectional awards of $50 each. They were Zan Withrow, 19, of Shebly, N.C. and Leslie Wardlow, 17, Pinetti, Fla.

Lefarm Bullock, 18, of Pinetops, N.C., received an honor check of $100. Last year, he constructed an electric chick border, and electric fence, a table lamp, and installed a signal bell system for the high school. Sectional awards of $50 went to Melvin Cunnimgham, 15, Seguin, Texas and Grant Haynes Jr., 19, Castalian Springs, Tenn.

Officers Elected

Ed V. Hill, 17, of Seguin, Texas, took first prize in soil and water management while the sectional honors of $50 each went to Joe Odum, Davidson, N.C. and Elbert Lane, Millen, Ga. Samuel E. Williams, Henderson, N.C., won the $100 check for farm and home improvement. Sectional awards went to Joe A. Woods, 16, Calhoun, La. and James E. Jay, Ocierfield, Ga.

Newly elected officers are:

President, Curtis Cooper, Ga.; first vice-president, Columbia J. Giles, S.C.; second vice-president, Theodus Kelly, Fla.; third vice-president, Charles E. Bryant, La.; secretary, Thomas A. Smith, Va.; treasurer, Franklin D. Hill, Okla., and reporter, Marvin C. Webb, Ala.

Afro-American Sat. 10-13-51 Baltimore

Farm Award to N.C. Youth

Wins New Farmers of America Check

ATLANTA, Ga. — Sameul E. Williams, Henderson, N.C., was the winner of the New Farmers of America National Farm and Home Improvement Award and was presented a $100 check at the Wednesday evening session of the 17th annual NFA convention, in progress at Municipal Auditorium last week.

A member of the Henderson Institute NFA Chapter; Mr. Williams holds the modern farmer degree. He entered high school in 1949 and planned a four-year supervised farming program with his teacher of vocational agriculture which was centered around the main enterprises of the farm.

Not satisfied with improved farming alone, Williams also started work on improving the home so the family would have a more comfortable place to live.

Laform Bullock Wins

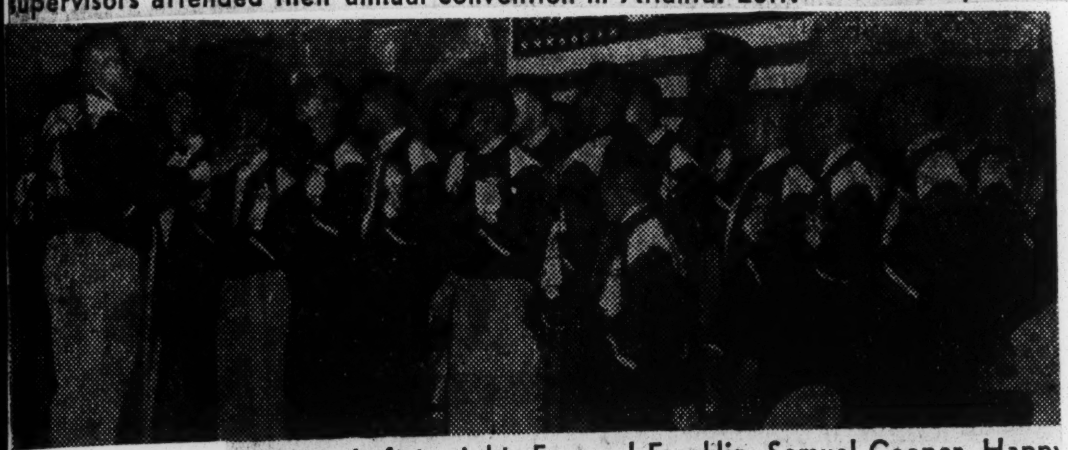
Laform Bullock, 18-year-old member of the G. W. Carver New Farmers of America Chapter at Pinetops, N.C., was the winner of the NFA National Farm Electrification award and was also presented a $100 check.

Young Bullock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bullock, Route No.2, Rocky Mount, NC., has succeeded in making electricity perform much of the work of the farm and farm house.

Two other farm boys won sectional awards in Farm Eletrifiation and a check of $50 each. They are Melvin Cunningham, 15, Sweet Home School, Seguin, Tex., and Grant Haynes Jr., 19, Castalian Springs, Tenn.

Afro-American Sat. 10-13-51 Baltimore

Nation's Outstanding Young Farmers Win Honors at Atlanta Convention



New Farmers Score—More than 1,000 New Farmers of America and supervisors attended their annual convention in Atlanta. Left: Dr. C. V. Troupe, president of Fort Valley (Ga.) State College, congratulates retiring NFA president, Calvin James and his father, M. C. James. Second from left: Atty. A. T. Walden of Atlanta introduces Mayor William B. Hartsfield of Atlanta, who welcomed the convention. Third from left: Georgia's NFA quartet won third place in singing competition. Left to right: Emanuel Franklin, Samuel Cooper, Happy Roberts and Edward Jackson. Right: the NFA national chorus on radio program at the Southeastern Fair in Atlanta.

$250 H. O. Sargent Award

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Courier Sat. 10-13-51

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

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Newell received a check for $243.03, and the runners-up received certificates a superior farmers, gold keys and $25 checks. Approximately $9,000 in awards was made.

Runners-up were Donald G. Carter, Zuni, Va.; Clifton Copeland, Suffolk, Va.; Lloyd Wallace Grant, Burlington, N. C.; Raymond L. Moore, Whitakers, N.C.; and Efferege Taylor, Loxley, Ala.

Taylor was named sectional star superior farmer and received a $125 award. Frank Battle of Enfield, N. C., was declared winner of the H. O. Sargent award of $250 as the most successful Negro farmer who is a former student of vocational agriculture and who has not been out of school for more than 10 years.

More Topnotchers

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Ed Victor Hill, 17, of Seguin, Texas, took first prize in soil and water management, while sectional honors of $50 each went to Joe Odum, of Davidson, N. C., and Elbert Lane, of Millen, Ga.

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Florida was fifth with: D. C. Byrd, Jerome Dupree and Domon Lewis of Sarasota.

Boys making high individual scores, in order of rank, were: Morris, of Arkansas; Isaac O. Williams of Alabama; Byrd of Florida; John Johnson of Kentucky; Young of South Carolina; Lewis of Florida: Elroy Johnson Jr. of Texas; William Lee of Mississippi; Wilson Taylor of North Carolina, and Simmons of Louisiana.

500 Delegates Attending New Farmers Of America Convention in Atlanta

ATLANTA — (ANP) — More than 500 delegates from 17 southern states are now attending the 17th National Convention of New Farmers of America in session in Exhibit Hall, Municipal auditorium, here Set. 30 to Oct. 4, according to W. T. Jonnson, chairman of the publicity committee.

A national organization for farm boys studying vocational agriculture education in states where separate schools are maintained for Negroes, the New Farmers of America has a membership of more than 45,000.

During the convention, the boys will participate in judging livestock, leadership activities, awarding various degrees, and conducting business activities of the organization.

Awards will be given to boys for outstanding achievements in vocational agriculture and N.F.A. work.

Speakers of the convention will include:

Mayor Hartsfield of Atlanta; Hal Davis, national Free Farmers of America vice president; Col. Earl Norman, attorney, Washington, Ga; Horace D. Millhone, Firestone Tire and Rubber company official, and C. L. Ellison, director School of Agriculture, Fort Valley State college, Georgia.

Officers of the organization include:

Calvin I. James, president; K. H. Malone, Jr., 1st vice president; Beverly L. Taylor, 2nd vice president; Richard Jackson, 3rd vice president; John D. Rogers, secretary, and William Flakes, treasurer.

1b 1951

North Carolina

Sharecropper Works Old Farm Into 175-Acre, $10,000 Estate

WASHINGTON—A former sharecropper of Reidsville, N. C., who used to barely break even, has reversed his position by adopting sound soil conservation practices and now owns a 175-acre farm, says R. E. Jones, state extension agent of North Carolina, in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The farmer, James Hooper, has converted a run-down farm on which he worked as sharecropper, into a modern farm valued at more than $10,000. He is soil conservation champion of North Carolina. His corn yield has increased from eight to 75 bushels per acre, his wheat from 20 to 37 bushels per acre, and his tobacco, from 800 to 1,200 pounds per acre.

The Hoopers sharecropped the same land year after year. "Every fall we were out of money by the time the last of our tobacco crop was sold," explains the former cropper. "From then on through the next crop year, we had to live on credit."

Talk Things Over

Realizing that they weren't making progress, Mr. and Mrs. Hooper sat down and talked over their problem. He was then 50. "If we are ever going to get anywhere," they decided, "we'd better get started."

Hooper went to his landlord and discussed buying the farm he was working, but he had no workstock, no implements, and no money. The landlord suggested that he try saving up to buy a pair of mules, equipment, and a little for the down-payment.

He took the advice, but had small hope of putting away enough to buy workstock and make the down-payment with the yield he was getting on the poor land.

Gets Technical Assistance

Then he went to see his county agent, T. D. Williams. Together they went to see the Soil Conservation service technician, Grady Wise. The agent and the SCS technician teamed up to help Hooper improve the land. As a result, the first year, he was able to buy two mules and some equipment.

The next year, with his share of the crop somewhat larger, and his tobacco yield considerably higher, he was able to pay down $1,000 on the farm. The total price was $4,500.

In 1944, Wise and Williams helped him make a complete soil and water conservation plan for his farm. Erosion was halted, the corn, wheat, and tobacco yields further increased, and pastures were started for a dairy herd.

Last year, a group of judges selected their farm as the best in the state among colored farmers from the standpoint of soil and water conservation. Hooper was acclaimed soil conservation champion of North Carolina for 1950; at the Log Cabin, Ga., jamboree, he received a $100 award.

Of FARMS and FARMERS

1950 SOIL CONSERVATION CHAMP—James Hooper, Reidsville, N.C., 1950 soil conservation champion of North Carolina, has increased his corn yield from eight to 75 bushels per acre. Here Hooper stands in his field by a tall stalk of corn. Within eight years he has risen from a debt-ridden sharecropper to owner of a 175-acre farm.

FORMER SHARECROPPER IS NOW PROSPEROUS FARM OWNER SINCE SOIL CONSERVATION CONVERSION

Converts Rundown Acreage Almost Worthless Into High Priced Investment With Modern Methods

FARM AGENT ASSISTS IN PLANNING PROGRAM

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Hooper paid only $25 an acre for the land which was poor and ordered eight years ago, but he says he wouldn't take $200 an acre for it now. His cultivated fields are used in a conservation cropping system arranged in contour strips. And all the steep slopes on the farm are terraced and lie beneath improved pastures for his small dairy herd. He has a modern new barn and expects to begin selling milk to the Grade A market soon.

"Getting to where I am has been a long uphill struggle," says Hooper, "I started out nearly 40 years ago with nothing but my wife and my two hands."

The Hoopers sharecropped the same land year after year. "Every fall we were out of money by the time the last of our tobacco crop was sold," explains the former cropper. "From then on through the next crop year, we had to live on credit."

Realizing that they weren't making any progress, Mr. and Mrs. Hooper sat down and talked over their problem. He was then 50. "If we are ever going to get anywhere," they decided, "We'd better get started."

Hooper went to his landlord and discussed buying the farm he was working but he had no workstock, no implements, and no money. The landlord suggested that he try saving up to buy a pair of mules, equipment, and a little for the down-payment.

He took the advice, but had small hope of putting away enough to buy workstock and make the down-payment with the yield he was getting on the poor land.

Then Hooper went to see his county agent, T. D. Williams. Together they went to see the Soil Conservation Service technician, Grady Wise. The agent and the SCS technician teamed up to help him improve the land. As a result, the first year, he was able to buy two mules and some equipment.

The next year, with his share of the crop somewhat larger, and his tobacco yield considerably higher, he was able to pay down $1,000 on the farm. The total sale price was $4,500.

In 1944, Wise and Williams helped him make a complete soil and water conservation plan for his farm. Erosion was halted, the corn, wheat, and tobacco yields further increased, and pastures were started for a diary herd.

Today, the Hoopers sell tobacco, hay, corn, hogs, wheat, and milk from six cows, and own a tractor, hay baler, and a threshing machine. State Agene Jones says they have a well balanced farming operation.

Last year, a group of judges selected their farm as the best in the State among colored farmers from the standpoint of soil and water conservation. Hooper was acclaimed soil conservation champion of North Carolina for 1950.

Two of his boys are 4-H'ers; one has won several honors. "It took us a long time to get started," says Hooper, "but from here on, the road looks good."

Once Debt-Ridden Sharecropper Now Has Own Successful 175-Acre Farm

Afro-American. Sat. 6-2-51 Baltimore, Md.

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Worth $200 Acre

Mr. Hooper paid only $25 an acre for the land which was poor and eroded eight years ago, but he says he wouldn't take $200 an acre for it now. His cultivated fields are used in a conservation cropping system arranged in contour strips.

And all the steep slopes on the farm are terraced and lie beneath improved pastures for his small dairy herd. He has a modern new barn and expects to begin selling milk to the Grade A market soon.

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Begins Again at 50

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Many Products Today

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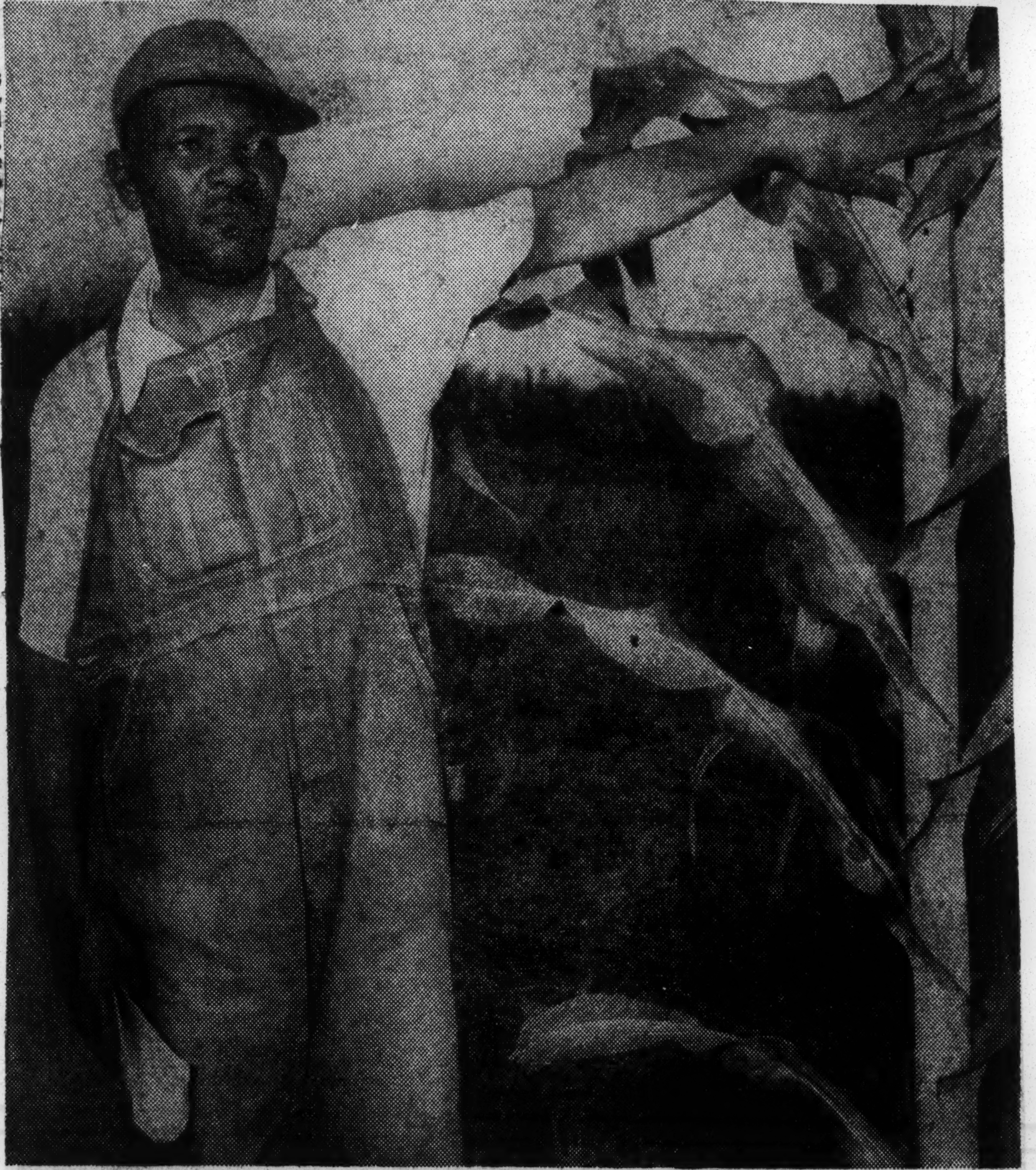
Today, the Hoopers sell tobacco, hay, corn, hogs, wheat, and milk from six cows, and own a tractor, hay baler, and a threshing machine. State Agent Jones says they have a well balanced farming operation.

Last year, a group of judges selected their farm as the best in the State among colored farmers from the standpoint of soil and water conservation. Mr. Hooper was acclaimed soil conservation champion of North Carolina for 1950; at the Log Cabin, Ga. Jamboree, he received a $100 award.

Two of his boys are 4-H'ers; one has won several State honors. "It took us a long time to get started," says Mr. Hooper, "but from here on. the road looks good."



James Hooper of Reidsville, N.C., 1950 soil conservation champion of North Carolina, has increased his corn yield from eight to 75 bushels per acre. On some acres, his yield is over 100 bushels. Mr. Hooper is shown standing in his field by a tall stalk of corn.

Okla. Ex-Sharecropper Is Now Owner of 160-Acre Model Farm

HENNESSEY, Okla. — From a status of sharecroppers with only $50 worth of shabby furniture to that of owners of a 160-acre farm with a modern home and champion live stock is the leap which Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Robinson of Hennessey, Okla., have made during the last ten years with the help of the Farmers Home Administration.

How this farm family made the transition is contained in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from District Agent Paul O. Brooks of the Oklahoma State Extension Service.

At 38, Mr. Robinson was still sharecropping in the Hennessey community as he had done all his life, says the report. He and Mrs. Robinson had two small children and thirty acres of wheat they were farming on halves. Although they worked hard, as the whole community and the cropper's big knobby hands testified, it seemed, that they could never get ahead.

Then they applied to the Farm Security Administration, now the Farmers Home Administration, for a loan to buy a farm of their own. The loan was approved and the Robinsons purchased 160 acres, a pair of mules, a cow, and a brood sow. And their FHA supervisor helped them work out a farm plan and a budget.

By using improved strains of wheat and good soil practices, the Robinsons increased their yield substantially. Also, they began to build up a small dairy herd, and to enlarge and improve their pig crop. Gradually, they added a few purebred Chester Whites and a few head of sheep.

Their animals dominated the swine and sheep division of the State Junior Fat Stock show at Guthrie, Okla., two years ago. Both Chester Whites shown by their daughter, Valeria, a 4-H'er, won awards. One was chosen Grand Champion, and other Reserve Grand Champion, and a Shropshire sheep shown by their son, Wilbur, was selected Grand Champion.

Looking at his son and daughter standing in the livestock pavilion with their blue ribbons, Mr. Robinson said, "Ten years ago, my children wouldn't have had a pig or a sheep to show, let alone champions." Within four years, these youngsters have won twenty-six ribbons in community, district and state shows.

Today, the Robinsons own eight milk cows, two steers, a heifer, three Chester White brood sows, a Poland China, and a Duroc, six heads of sheep, and 160 layers. Also, they own a tractor, a windmill water system, a small dairy barn, and a modern home with a gas range.

"You know, wheat is our main cash crop," Mr. Robinson explains, "but we also sell about $20 worth of cream a week, and nearly $25 worth of eggs. And, of course, we grow just about all our food."

The Robinsons plant around sixty-five acres to wheat every year, and most of the time, they have a good harvest.

Oklahoma Sharecropper Rises From Poverty To Owner Of 160-Acre Farm

DISTRICT EXTENSION AGENT Paul O. Brooks (right) of Oklahoma, looks over the 26 ribbons which 4-H'ers Valeria and Wilbur Robinson of Hennessey, Okla., have won with their projects. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Robinson (left and center) were sharecroppers until 1940 when the Farmers' Home Administration made them a loan to build a farm of their own.

Of FARMS and FARMERS

In only ten years Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Robinson of Hennessey, Okla., have pulled themselves up from the status of sharecroppers to the lofty position of farm owners.

Their 160-acre farm is a long way from the $50 worth of shabby furniture they owned back in 1941. Behind their progress is a success story filled with determination and labor.

At 38, Robinson was still sharecropping in the Hennessey community as he had done all his life, says the report. He and Mrs. Robinson had two small children and 30 acres of wheat they were farming on halves. Although they worked hard, as the whole community and the cropper's big knobby hands testified, it seemed that they could never get ahead.

The Climb Upward

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From Nothing To Something

Looking at his son and daughter standing in the livestock pavilion with their blue ribbons, Robinson said, "Ten years ago, my children wouldn't have had a pig or a sheep to show, let alone champions." Within four years, these youngsters have won 26 ribbons in community, district, and State shows.

Recalling the year the Farm Security made him a loan, Robinson held out his gnarled hands and declared, "These are all I had back in 1940 when the Government lent us money to buy a farm of our own. Of course," he continued, "we had a little furniture that was almost worn out. Maybe it was worth $50, but I doubt it."

Today, the Robinsons own eight milk cows, two steers, a heifer, three Chester White brood sows, a Poland China, and a Duroc, six head of sheep, and 160 layers. Also, they own a tractor, a windmill water system, a small dairy barn, and a modern home with a gas range.

"You know, wheat is our main cash crop," Robinson explains, "but we also sell about $20 worth of cream a week, and nearly $25 worth of eggs. And, of course, we grow just about all our food."

The Robinsons plant around 65 acres to wheat every year, and most of the time, they have a good harvest. However, in 1949, wind erosion took their crop. "It blew it all out; we didn't harvest a grain," says Robinson.

Gets Smart

But they had no real worry. Cream checks, receipts from eggs, a few calves and pigs kept them going. "This convinced us of one thing," the farmer asserts, "it isn't smart to count on one crop."

Georgia Man Wins Highest Federal Department Of Agriculture Award

LANGSTON, Okla.—The highest honor bestowed by the Production and Marketing administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture was awarded to James P. Davis, field representative of the agency, in a ceremony last week at the Oklahoma School of Religion here.

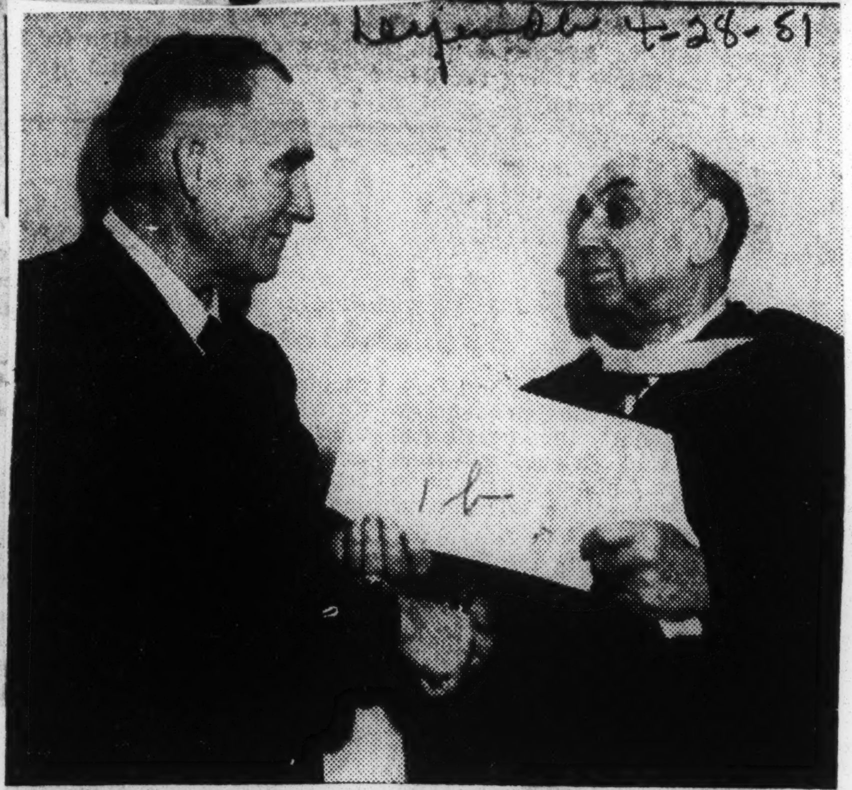
The PMA honor, a meritorious service award, was presented to Davis by Emery E. Jacobs, field man of the agency. This citation followed the conferring of a degree of doctor of human relations by the school of religion. Dean John W. Coleman of the institution made the presentation.

The award carries with it a salary increase of $200 a year. It was awarded in recognition of Davis' "unusual leadership in stimulating the interest of rural Negro families in better farming; and for his outstanding contribution to interracial relations."

Davis has been employed by the Department of Agriculture for the last 17 years. Since 1941, he has served as national field representative of PMA, with headquarters in Little Rock, Ark.

Davis is a native of Athens, Ga. He attended Georgia State college, where he studied agriculture. During World War 1, he served as food conservator of the U. S. Department of Commerce, working with rural people throughout Georgia.

In 1922, he was elected president of the National Federation of Colored Farmers and held this post until his appointment to the USDA 17 years ago.



GETS HIGHEST PMA AWARD—James P. Davis (right) receives a Meritorious Service Award from Emery E. Jacobs, field man of the Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture. This is the highest award bestowed by PMA, of which Davis is a field representative with headquarters at Little Rock, Ark. Davis received the award for his outstanding service to Negro farmers.

1b 1951

TUSKEGEE CITATION PLAGUE

Sherman Briscoe
Information Specialist-U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

GETS TUSKEGEE CITATION PLAQUE.—Sherman Briscoe, left, information specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is being congratulated upon receipt of a Tuskegee citation plaque by Dr. Arthur Raper, noted author and rural sociologist. The award was presented for "outstanding service in the field of agricultural journalism by the Tuskegee Agricultural Forum during the recent Farmers' Conference. Dr. Raper, who is serving as a USDA social science analyst, was one of the principal speakers at the meeting.

PRODUCING A NEW HAY SEED. — Bishop Holifield, center, technician of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, stands in a field of hairy indigo on the Florida A. & M. College farm, discussing the important new legume and hay crop with two agriculturists. At left is District Agent J. A. Gresham of the Florida State Extension Service, and at right is Farm Manager E. T. Brooks of Florida A. & M. SCS has encouraged the college to plant hairy indigo in order to supply seed to nearby farmers. The tropical plant is a good summer legume for the deep South, or it may be used as source of forage and hay. It was only established in the United States in 1954. — USDA Photo

Urges Farmers To Use Adapted Alfalfa Seed

WASHINGTON — Farmers in central and nothern alfalfa zones were cautioned again today by crop scientists and seed specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture against planting non-hardy alfalfa seed. Production of winter-hardy alfalfa seed in the northern and central zones in 1950 was below 1951 planting needs, but in the southern zone production of non-hardy alfalfa was in excess of normal planting needs.

Since there is a shortage of hardy seed, the International Crop Improvement Association, the Field Seed Institute of North America, and State and Federal seed specialists say that some non-hardy seed is finding its way into the central and northern alfalfa zones.

Lack of winter hardiness makes Southwestern Common alfalfa susceptible to winter-killing when it is planted in the North. This limit the safe use of such seed in the North to **PLANTING FOR GREEN MANURE,** as sweet clover is used, or for other purposes that do not demand wnter survival. Agricultural experiment stations, extension services, and the seed trade in the Northern and Central States do not recommend non-hardy seed for hay and pasture plantings where presistence of the alfalfa is important.

These recommendations are not to be confused with those for **CERTIFIED** seed of centra and northern adapted varieties grown in the South, the crop scientists point out .Southern-grown certified seed of central and northern adapted varieties is okay because variety rather than place of origin is the critical factor in adaptation. On the other hand, seed of most varieties adapted in the South, whether certified or not, is still not adapted in the North.

Advantage is being taken of the superior conditions for seed production in the Western and Southwestern States for providing the large volume of seed of central and northern adapted varieties of alfalfa. Certified Ranger and Buffalo, and to a lesser extent, Atlantic alfalfa seed, is being produced on a large scale in the Southwest. This Certified seed is being grown from Registered or Foundation seed produced in the regions of adaptation of the respective varieties.

This Certified seed is grown under the supervision of the State seed certificaton agencies that supervise growing, processing, and labeling. Such Certified seed is suitable for planting in the respective areas of adaptation of the varieties, even though grown in the South, as varietal identity is retained by use of adapted planting stocks and by isolation and other requirements which prevent damaging contaminaton from other alfalfa.

Crop scentists emphasize that only through certification can the identity of the variety and hence the inherent qualities of the seed be assured.

There are three procedures designed to insure correct labeling of seed, the seed authorities explained-Certificaton, U. S. Verification of Origin, and State and Federal Seed Act enforcement State and Federal seed laws require that State of origin of alfalfa seed be stated on the tag. In some States the name of the variety is required to be stated on the label. To take advantage of the protection offered by the seed laws, farmers should read the label carefully before buying.

The seed verification service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has as its chief goal the assurance to farmers that the origin of place of production of alfalfa seed is correctly stated. Records of seedsmen enrolled in the service include statements made by growers and country shippers of alfalfa seed. Special labels are used to show that the State of origin of the seed is verified.

Negro Soil Contest Winner Long Has Practiced Best

By JAMES McBROOM

BATESVILLE — (Special) — Tom Cooper, 57-year-old Negro farmer of the McIvor community west of Batesville has been chosen as the second best Negro conservationist in the state by the Commissioners of the State Soil Conservation Association.

Tom, who received a $50 check from the association for his efforts, is no newcomer to the practice of soil conservation. When the Panola County Soil Conservation District was organized in [illegible], he was one of the first Negroes to seek advice and assistance.

Through the Farmers Home Administration, Tom had succeeded in buying 100 acres of fair farm land, and he told W. D. Gordon of Batesville, Work Unit Conservationist for South Panola county, "That for my place to pay out, every acre out here has got to be in its best use." So with Mr. Gordon's assistance, he started a planned farming program.

Tom had a drainage problem and he had no idea what to do about it. His land was supposed to drain, but there was no place for the water to go. So with the advice and assistance of Mr. Gordon, he entered into an agreement with three other farmers to have a drainage ditch cut along his place. The total cost of the project to the four farmers was only $160, and Tom says it has been worth several times that amount to him alone.

Realizes Modernization Need

Even though he was born and reared on a farm, Tom realized that he had to modernize his farming methods if he was going to be a successful farmer. In addition to being sold on soil conservation, he believes in diversified farming and the rotation of crops.

He has steadily built up his herd of cattle until he has 26 cows and a registered bull. He also has two registered Duroc Jersey sows. A few years ago he was a share cropper and today he is comfortably independent financially.

When T. S. Shuford of Batesville, chairman of the Panola County Soil Conservation District Commissioners, handed Tom his check, he asked the Negro what he planned to do with it, and Tom replied, "I guess I'll buy a war bond—after I've shown it to all my friends."

Tom has a big family, and even though the first thing he taught his children was hard work, he is determined to see that they are better prepared for life than he was. One of his daughters will begin her third year in college this fall. He has another daughter in high school and his baby is still in grade school. One of his sons is in the Army in Korea, and another one works in Batesville. His oldest daughter, who is married, keeps house for him now, following his wife's death last year.

Born in Panola county, Tom has traveled extensively through the East and Middle West, but says he has never been gone from Panola county for a whole w[illegible] any one time. He said he got homesick for "The be[illegible] I've ever been."

Proposed Farm Payment Fund Cut Refused by Senate

Soil Conservation Slash Voted Down

(The Associated Press)

Washington, July 25—The Senate Wednesday refused by a vote of 41 to 36 to cut $130 million from a fund for payments to farmers next year under the soil conservation program

Senators Williams (R-Del.), Dirksen (R-Ill.), Douglas (D-Ill.) and others proposed to reduce the soil conservation fund from $280 million to $150 million.

The Senate is considering the agriculture department appropriations bill.

Earlier an attempt to chop nearly $13 million out of the bill was beaten.

Dirksen had proposed cutting operating funds for the soil conservation service from $53,474,991 to $40,600,000.

He charged there was wasteful duplication and overlapping in the various agriculture department agencies handling the conservation program.

Senator Russell (D-Ga.), floor manager for the farm bill, opposed the slash and, with less than 20 senators present and only a few voting, the proposal was defeated without a record vote.

Undaunted, Dirksen then proposed reducing to $150 million a $280 million authorization for payments to farmers taking part in the soil conservation program.

"Farmers can sacrifice," Dirksen said, adding that the payments to 3,100,000 participating farmers averaged only about $85 each.

He said the $150 million limit had been suggested by President Allan Kline of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

"MAKIN' HAY"—Bishop Holifield (center), technician of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, stands in a field of hairy indigo on the Florida A. and M. College farm discussing the important new legume and hay crop with two agriculturists. Soil Conservation Service has encouraged the college to plant hairy indigo in order to supply seed to nearby farmers. Established in the the U. S. in 1945, the tropical plant is a good summer legume for the deep South, or it may be used as a source of forage and hay. At left is District Agent J. A. Gresham of the Florida State Extension Service. Farm Manager E. T. Brooks of Florida A. and M. is at right.

SENATE BOOSTS FUND FOR SOIL CONSERVATION

Washington, July 26 (AP) — The senate, brushing aside cries for "economy," today voted 280 million dollars for this year's payments to farmers for soil conservation. The figure, approved without a roll call vote, is 23½ million dollars more than the house had voted.

Earlier the senators had voted, 41 to 39, to authorize the same amount next year. This is 55 million dollars more than the house allowed. They turned back repeated efforts to whittle down the sum.

The senate did, however, finally make one cut of 2 million dollars in the appropriation bill carrying more than a billion dollars for the agriculture department's operations in the year which started July 1.

Higher Than House Total

That action came on a 48 to 30 vote approving an amendment by Sen. Douglas [D., Ill.]. It reduced to 10 million dollars the sum allotted by the appropriations committee in an item for "agricultural production programs."

Douglas said there is no need for such large outlays when corn, wheat, and other major crops no longer are under acreage controls.

Even with the cut, however, the allowance is still well above the $8,300,000 the house had voted.

Douglas had tried yesterday to slash 130 million dollars out of the soil conservation allowance for next year.

The last unavailing effort to cut the fund for this year's soil conservation payments was made by Sen. Ferguson [R., Mich.]. He wanted to whittle out 5 million dollars, a modest cut by comparison with earlier proposals which the senate would not take.

Fails to Stir Interest

Ferguson couldn't even get a record vote and lost, 24 to 13, on a standing count.

Then Sen. Russell [D., Ga.], floor manager for the bill, obtained voice vote approval of the 280 million dollar figure, raised in the senate appropriations committee from the house's 256½ million dollars.

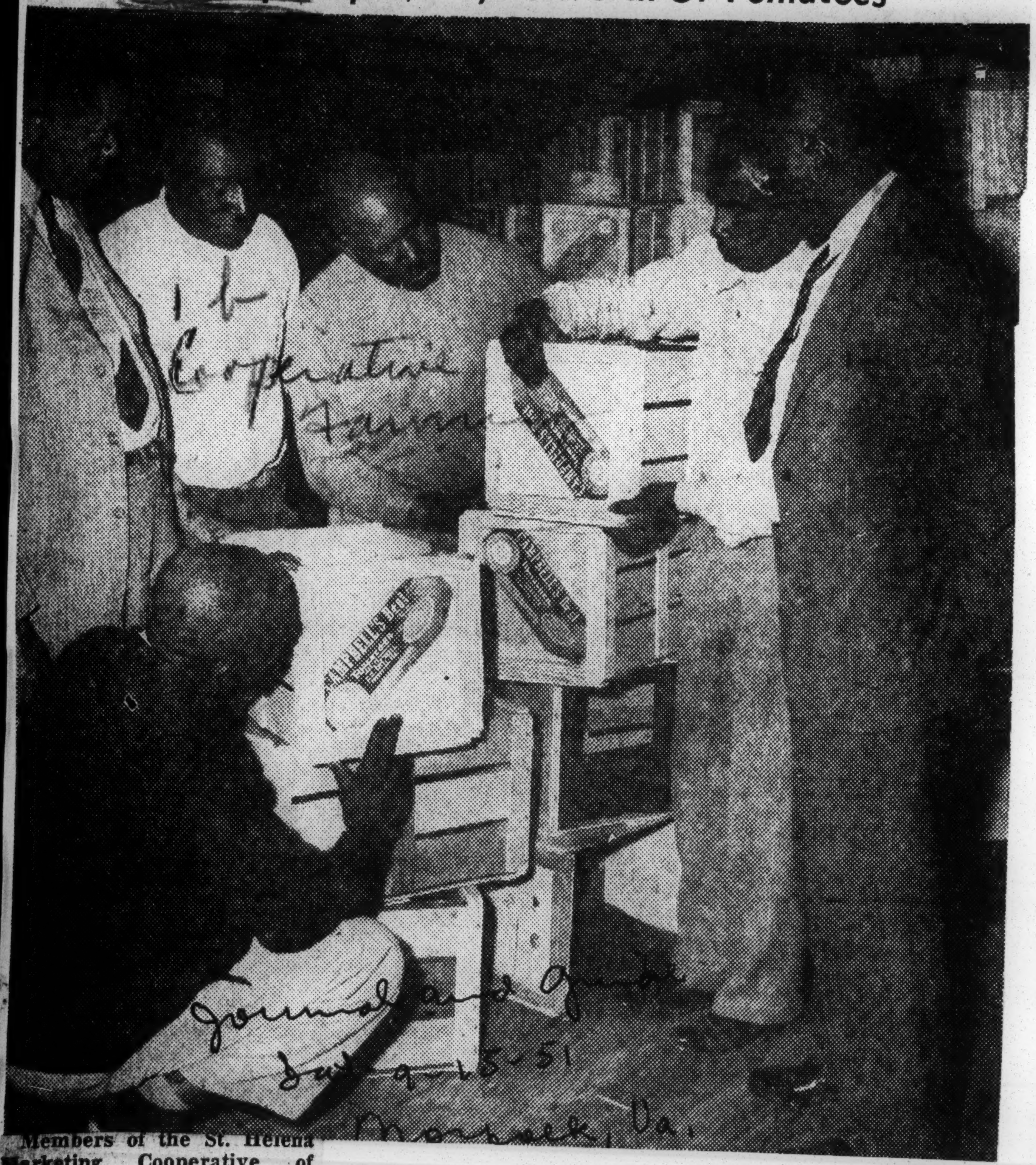
The house authorization for next year is 225 million dollars.

As the senate waded thru the bill section by section, it voted $40,000 each for research on mosaic disease and a control program on green bugs. Senators said the disease and the insects, sometimes working together, have caused millions of dollars damage in the midwestern wheat belt.

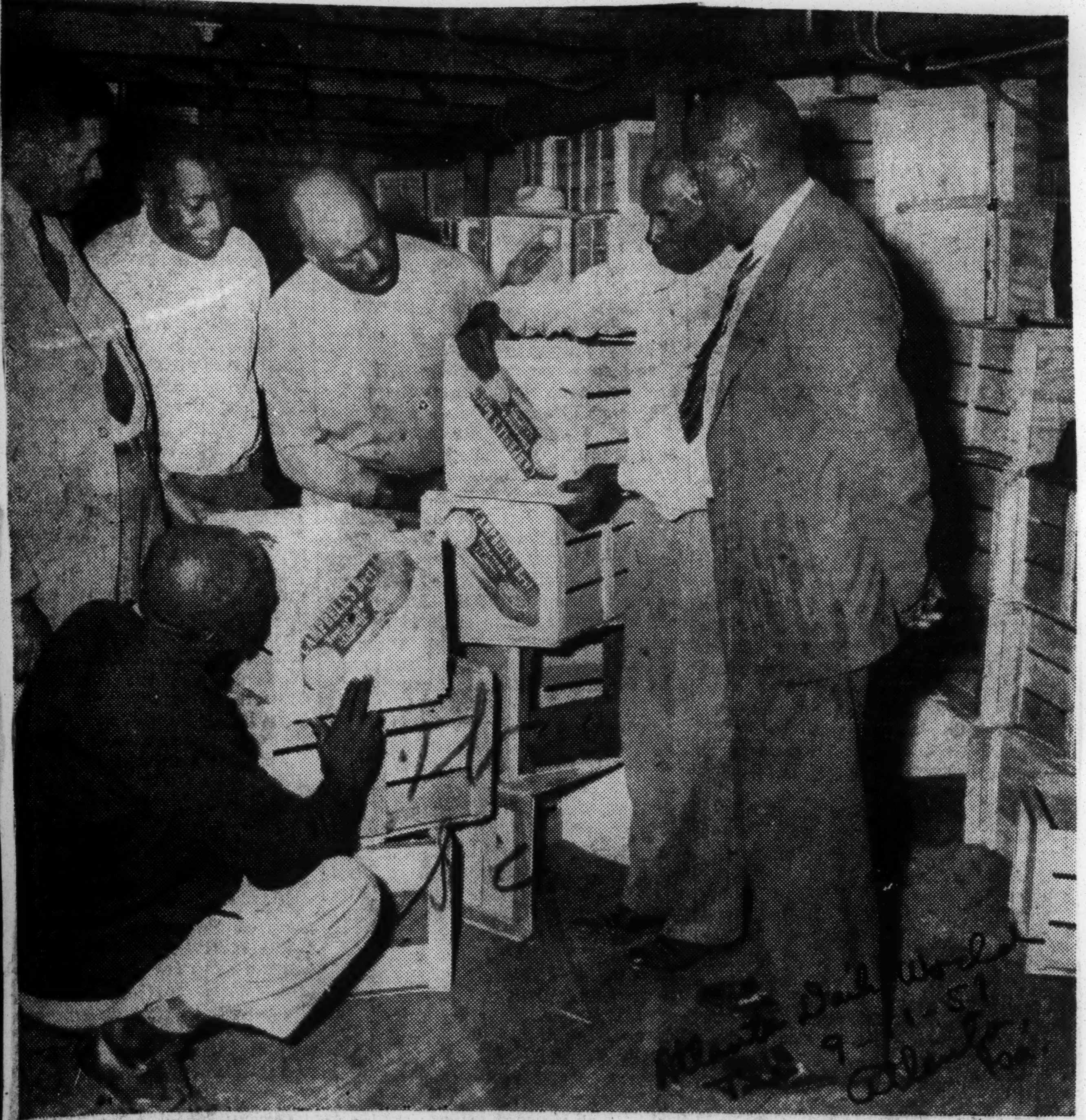
The increases must be approved by the house.

1b 1951 South Carolina

Co-Op Ships $135,000 Worth Of Tomatoes



Members of the St. Helena Marketing Cooperative of Beaufort, S. C., show State Extension Supervisor E. N. Williams, standing at extreme left, the type of crates they use to ship their tomatoes. Last year the co-op shipped $135,000 worth of tomatoes. They were marketed for the farmers in the area. Left to right are: John Henderson, Mr. Williams, Rev. I. H. Middleton, A. J. Brown, County Agent Benjamin B. Barnwell, and Dr. Y. W. Bailey.—(US A Photo)



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He'll Sell 200 Hogs This Fall

Ford Miller, Laurence Co., S.C. looks over his herd of five registered and three grade cows on temporary grazing pasture of oats, barley and crimson clover. A large part of the family income is derived from livestock and livestock products. Miller plans to sell 200 hogs this fall.

Treated Rented Site as if He Owned It

Foresight, Work Enabled Him to Buy Property in 7 Years Instead of 40

LAURENS, S.C. — At an age when most men are retired, Ford Miller, 70, Laurens County farmer, is a living testimonial of the prophet insight of the poet Browning who wrote, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be . . ."

His success is also proof that diversified farming pays dividends.

During the three-year period, 1934-37, Ford, his wife, Charlotte, and a daughter lived on the Vance Irby farm where they paid rent for two years and worked on shares one year.

Kin Helped Work Farm

In 1937 they moved to a new farm and took with them two mules, a reaper, and old tractor, a harrow and two cows.

The new farm consisted of 121 acres with 60 in cultivation and 18 had approved terraces. Ford Miller paid annual rent of 1500 pounds of lint cotton.

Family labor consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Miller, a daughter, Sarah; son-in-law, Ollie Poole and two nephews.

MR. AND MRS. FORD MILLER

Wanted to Buy Farm

Miller signed a contract with the Soil Conservation Service and completed terracing all his cultivable acres. He wanted to buy this farm, but existing regulations at the time prevented its sale.

Hoping that he would be able to buy some day, Miller treated the farm as an owner would and not a tenant.

He carried on an intensive program of improvement including fencing, clearing land, terracing, crop rotation and livestock production.

Credit supplied by Farmers Home Administration loans made some of this possible and most of his own income went back into the farm.

Put Cash Into Machinery

Extra cash was put into farm machinery. This was a wise decision, for when the United States entered World War II, his son-in-law and two nephews were called into service. This left Miller with an acute labor shortage.

Since he was getting along in years, the machinery began to pay off. His main crops became grain for feed and seed, clover, corn and hogs.

His wife and daughter sold butter, buttermilk and vegetables from a large year-round garden. By 1943 he had built his net worth to $5,900.

Became Owner in 1944

In 1944 the property was sold and he bought the farm with a Farmers Home Administration loan of $5000 with 40 years to repay.

Today, seven years later at the age of 70, Ford Miller's net worth is $12,500 and he has paid all but $300 on his farm.

This puts him approximately 30 years ahead of schedule. He plans to complete the payment of his farm this spring.

Last year he received about three-fourths of the farm income from the sale of livestock and livestock products. He has cleared 15 acres of pasture which he cuts with a mower.

There are numerous grazing lots for his hogs, most of them with access to running water. A well-kept orchard consists of peaches, apples, grapes and pecans.

Will Market 200 Hogs

Mr. Miller has planted a big grain crop this year and expects to market it through 200 fat hogs this season. His five registered and three grade cows furnish butter and buttermilk for customers in town and the surplus is fed to hogs.

After the war his nephew found other employment, but the son-in-law returned to the farm where his family lives in a separate house. Both son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Poole, teach in the community. Their three children belong to 4-H clubs.

In a recent hog show in Laurens and Greenville counties one of the grandson's hogs won the title of county champion while the other's hog was grand champion of the show.

FARM NEWS

Miller's S. C. Farm Worth $12,000

Mr. and Mrs. Ford Miller (top photo) relax on the front steps of their home located on their 121 acre farm in Laurens county, S. C. Sharecroppers and renters in 1937, the Millers discovered that through crop diversification and livestock they were able to own their farm. Its worth is estimated at more than $12,000. In the bottom photo, Mr. Miller's herd of five registered and three grade cows graze on temporary pasture of oats, barley and crimson clover. A large part of the farm income is derived from livestock and livestock products. In the fall, Mr. Miller plans to sell 200 hogs.

Journal and Guide Sat. 2-17-51 Norfolk, Va.

South Carolina Farmer Finds Payoff In Livestock And Diversified Crops

Journal and Guide Sat. 2-17-51

LAURENS, S. C.—At an age when most men are retired, Ford Miller, 70, Laurens County Farmer, is a living testimonial of the prophetic insight of the poet Browning who wrote, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be . . ." His success is also proof that divirsified farming pays dividends.

During the three-year period, 1934-37, Ford, his wife, and a daughter lived on the Vance Irby farm where they paid rent for two years and worked on shares one year. In 1937 they moved to a new farm and took with them two mules, a reaper, an old tractor, a harrow and two cows.

The new farm consisted of 121 acres with 60 in cultivation and 18 had approved terraces. Ford Miller paid annual rent of 1,500 pounds of lint cotton.

* * *

FAMILY LABOR consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Miller, a daughter, Sarah; son-in-law, Ollie Poole and two nephews.

Mr. Miller signed a contract with the Soil Conservation Service and completed terracing all his cultivable acres. He wanted to buy this farm but existing regulations at the time prevented its sale. Hoping that he would be able to buy some day, Miller treated the farm as an owner would, and not as a tenant.

He carried on an intensive program of improvement including fencing, clearing land, terracing, crop rotation ad livestock poduction. Credit supplied by Farmers Home Administration loans made some of this possible and most of his own income went back into the farm.

Norfolk, Va.

*

EXTRA CASH was put into farm machinery. This was a wise decision for when the United States entered World War II his son-in-law and two nephews were called into service. This left Mr. Miller with an acute labor shortage. Since he was getting along in years, the machinery began to pay off. His main crops became grain for feed and seed, clover, corn and hogs.

His wife and daughter sold butter, buttermilk and vegetables from a large year-round garden.

By 1943 he had built his net worth to $5,900.

In 1944 the property was sold and he bought the farm with a Farmers Home Administration loan of $5000 with 40 years to repay. Today, seven years later at the age of 70, Ford Miller's net worth is $12,500 and he has paid all but $330 on

north with great sprint ability but also with the cockiness that did not set well with Eulace Peacok, Ben Johnson, and others. So, when the starter put them on the mark, by pre-arrangement, one of the starters would pull off the runners, then in the next attempt another starter would break. By that time or the next, the unwary boy would have used up his two trials and be out of the race.

I also remember when Lincoln played Howard football indoors at the Atlantic City Auditorium. I was refereeing. A third-string lineman took an under-the - pile sock at Lincoln's best back.

The Lincoln player came up in the clear before several thousand spectators swinging and connecting with the Howard players, who did not wait for suspension but ran off the field.

* * *

NOT SEEING the beginning of the melee, there was nothing to do but to send Lincoln's star back to the sidelines. Today the writers call this in basketball, exchanging a five footer for a six footer, in the professional game.

1b 1951 "SUPERIOR SERVICE" AWARD
James Perry Davis

James P. Davis Wins Ag Award

OKLAHOMA CITY—(ANP)— A "superior service" award was given to James Perry Davis, field representative of the Purchasing Market administration in Little Rock, for his "unusual leadership in stimulating the interest of Negro farmers and their families in the programs of the Department of Agriculture," it was announced here this week.

Wed. 3-7-51

The award, which carries with it an increase in salary of $200 per year was approved by the USDA Superior Service Honor Awards board, Washington, upon recommendation of the PMA Central Efficiency Awards committee in Oklahoma City.

PMA Fieldman Emery E. Jacobs initiated the award proceedings, which cites the recipient "for his unusual leadership in stimulating the interest of Negro farmers and their families in the program of the department; for his outstanding contributions to their welfare and for his success in promoting interracial goodwill and understanding."

Young Man of the Year Award to Dairyman

[illegible] all wreathed in smiles, Willie A. Haselrig, Junior Chamber of Commerce "Young Man [illegible]" winner, is shown [illegible] trophy as other members of the Jaycees and the principal speaker look on, in Chattanooga, Tenn. From left to right are the Rev. E. P. Williams, pastor of the Cosmopolitan Community Church, Charles E. Traughber, YMCA Boys Work secretary, Haselrig, Dr. William F. Faulkner, dean of the chapel, Fisk University, the principal speaker, John Franklin, president of the Chattanooga Negro Junior Chamber of Commerce and Frederick (Fred) Patterson, first vice president. Mr. Haselrig who was cited for building a grade "A" dairy, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Haselrig, owner of the Haselrig and Sons Dairy at Chicamauga, Ga.

Dairy Farmer Given Jaycees 1950 Award

By PETER D. SIMMONS

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — The [illegible] annual "Young Man of the [illegible]" award sponsored by the Colored Junior Chamber of Commerce was presented recently to Willie H. Haselrig, 29, a dairyman of Chicamauga, Ga., at Howard High School here.

The presentation was made by William Hagan, white, past president of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. William F. Faulkner, dean of the chapel at Fisk University in Nashville. guest speaker, said young men like Haselrig are "leaders with vision and initiative" needed in the second half of this century to bring realization of dreams of men of the first half.

Six Named 'Men of Year'

Six "honorary life memberships" in the Junior Chamber of Commerce were presented by Dr. E. T. McIntosh Jr., to the following for outstanding civic work in 1950 on "The Man of the Year" program:

Harry W. Tyler, personnel director, Tennessee Valley Authority; Prof. T. D. Upshaw, principal, Booker T. Washington High School; R. J. Smith, executive secretary, the ames H. Henry YMCA Branch, all advisors to the Jaycees; Prof. W. J. Davenport, principal, Howard High School; Theodore Bryant of radio station WDXB; and Peter D. Simmons, newspaper man.

John Franklin, president of the Jaycees presided; the Rev. E. P. Williams, pastor of Cosmopolitan Church and a Jaycee, introduced Dean Faulkner; the Rev. Leo Cole of Stanley Methodist Church gave the invocation; and John F. McGhee responded to the guest speaker and John Meyer, president of the white Jaycees.

Judges for Awards

Judges who selected "The Young Man of the Year" were:

The Rev. G. J. Thomas, pastor of the Congregational Church; Mrs. W. J. Astrapp, flower shop proprietor; Prof. T. D. Upshaw, high school principal; Mrs. I. H. Patton, school principal; the Rev. M. H. Ribbins, pastor, Second Baptist Church; Grady Harris, manager, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co.; T. O. Gordon, store proprietor; Booker T. Scruggs, housing manager; R. J. Smith of the YMCA; and C. B Robinson, school principal.

Interracial Reception

An open house reception for the speaker and his wife, which was interracial, was held after the program at the home of Dr. and Mrs. E. F. McIntosh Jr.

Both the white and Colored Chambers of Commerce work together on most projects. The colored Jaycees were organized through the insistence of members of the white group.

Cited for Business Acumen

Haselrig, a partner in the C. D. Haselrig and Sons Dairy at Chicamauga, Ga., is a charter member and treasurer of the Jaycees organized a year ago.

He was cited for his role in building his father's dairy into one of the finest grade "A" plants in this area. Last Jan. 16 he was named in Georgia for 1950.

A member of the North Georgia Milk Producers' Association, he started the dairy on the road to the outstanding young farmer in sucess with a GI loan, which was used to purchase pasteurizing equipment to meet standards set by the Health Department.

Sells Milk in City

Ignoring protests from several sources, Haselrig worked tirelessly until he received permission to sell milk products in Chattanooga.

The business prospered so well that three other brothers who had gone to other cities returned home to help with the enterprise. The dairy employs 12 other people on a full-time basis.

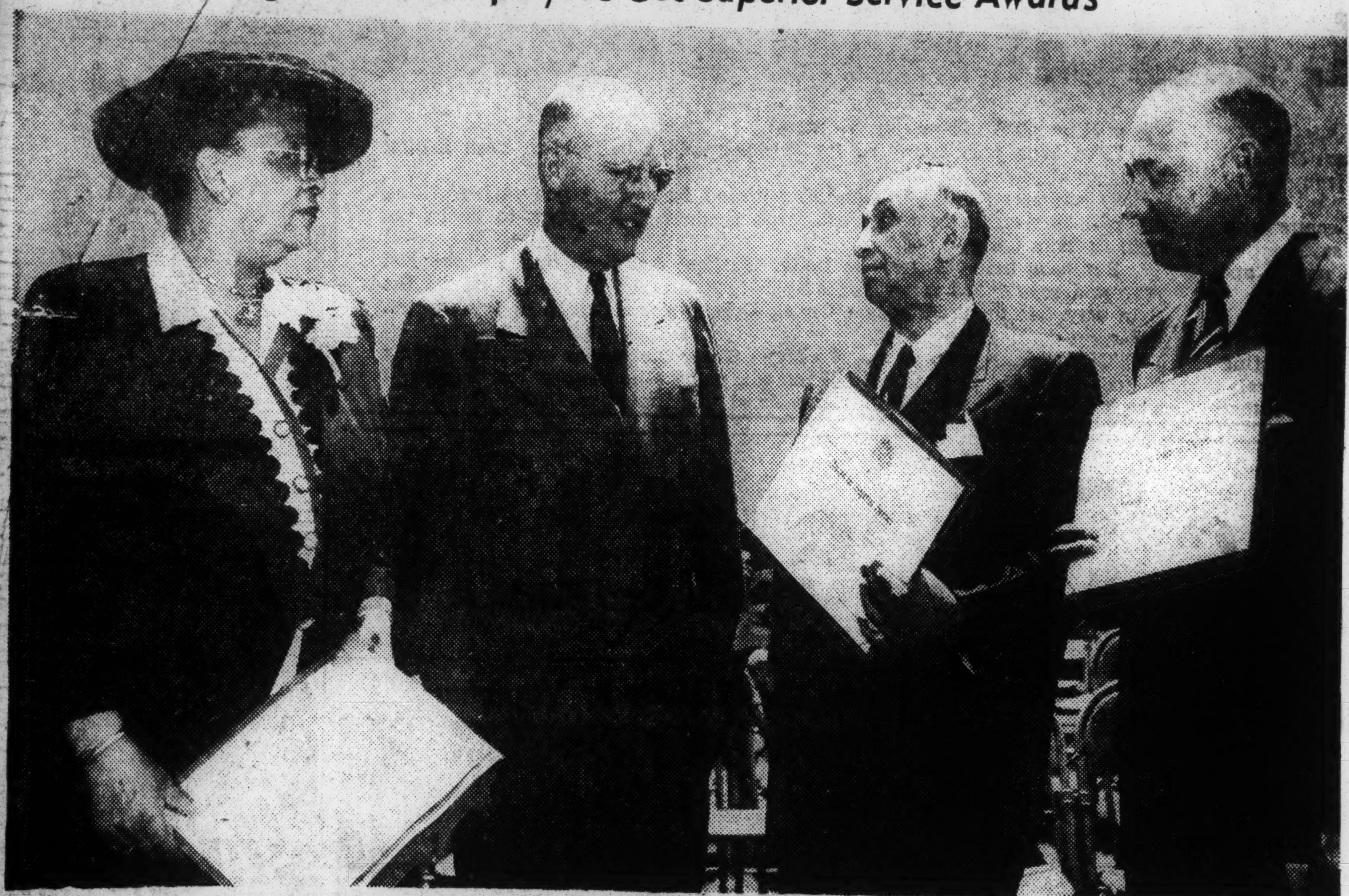
The dairy now owns six large trucks that make deliveries in the city and has contracts with seven schools.

Trained at Hawaii U.

A veteran of World War II, and a graduate of Howard High School here, Haselrig served in the South Pacific and while in Hawaii studied at the university there where he received the training that inspired him to establish a first rate dairy farm on his return home.

He is a former Sunday School superintendent of the AME Zion Church, a member of the North Georgia Interracial Commitee, secretary of his Masonic Lodge, and manager of the dairy.

Agriculture Employees Get Superior Service Awards



Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan is chatting with three of the Department of Agriculture's colored employees who received Superior Service Awards during the annual awards ceremony on the Washington Monument Grounds before a crowd of 4,000.

Left to right are Mrs. Homoselle R. Jarvis, scientific aide of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; Secretary Brannan, James P. Davis, administrative officer of the Production and Marketing Administration; and John W. Jeffries, assistant state extension agent of North Carolina. A Superior Service Award also went to Mrs. Lea Etta Lusk, home demonstration agent of Washington County, Texas, but she was not present to receive it.

Four Agriculture Workers Get USDA Service Awards

WASHINGTON — Four outstanding colored agricultural workers received Superior Service Awards here last wek from the U. S. Department of Agriculture at special ceremonies on the Monument Grounds before a crowd of 4,000.

Presentation was made by Secretary Charles F. Brannan in recognition of the significant contributions these workers have made to scientific achievement and better rural living. Altogether, awards went to 141 employees and 20 work units. The Hon. Harold D. Cooley of the House of Representatives was the speaker for the occasion.

The four colored employees who were honored are: Mrs. Homoselle R. Jarvis, scientific aide of the Bureau of Home Economics and Human Nutrition; Mrs. Lea Etta Lusk, county home demonstration agent of the Texas State Extension Service; John W. Jeffries, assistant state agent of the North Carolina Extension Service; and James P. Davis, administrative officer of the Production and Marketing Administration.

* * *

THE SUPERIOR Service Award is the second highest honor that the Department of Agriculture accords its employees. Prior to this year, only two other Negro workers have received this award. They are T. M. Campbell, field agent of the USDA Extension Service: and Otis S. O'Neal, former county agent at-large of Georgia.

One colored employee, Luther W. McLeod of Washington, received a length of service award. He has served with the department almost exactly 40 years, entering its employ on May 1, 1911. Mr. McLeod works in the foods and nutrition laboratories of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

The citation for Mrs. Jarvis reads: "For her dependability, thoroughness, and readiness to assume responsibilities beyond those assigned her, and for her contribution to the efficient functioning of the Housing and Household Division."

A FORMER student at Armstrong High School, Washington, Mrs. Jarvis has been employed by the department since 1944. During that period, she has shared in many laboratory experiments at Beltsville, Md., and has made useful suggestions for improvements in methods.

Mr. Jeffries was honored "for his successful work with Negro farmers in developing more and better livestock owned by Negroes in Alamance county, N.C., and for developing a program which has advanced Negro farming to a high degree."

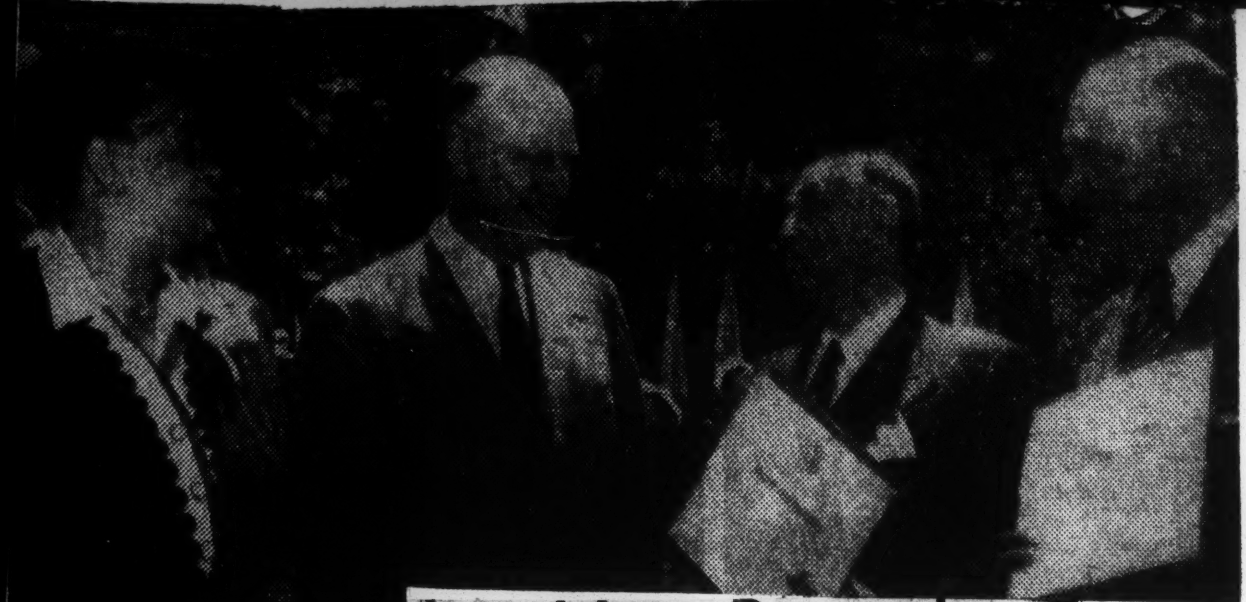
A native of Alamance county Mr. Jeffries became its first Negro county agent in 1922. Eleven years ago, he was promoted to district agent, and three years later, to his present post as assistant state agent. He organized the first bull association among Negro farmers in North Carolina.

* * *

MR. DAVIS, who has been with the department for 17 years, won his award for "stimulating the interest of Negro Farmers and their families in the programs of the Department; for contributing to their welfare; and for promoting interracial goodwill and understanding." He has his headquarters in Little Rock Ark.

Mrs. Lusk, who was not present to receive her award, was honored "for her contribution to rural life through successful advocacy of self-sufficiency in farm living, and promotion of understanding of Negro problems; for ability to train leaders, and inspire youth."

Graduating from the Prairie View-A. and M. College in 1909, Mrs. Lusk went to work for the Texas Extension Service 10 years later and has served with the agency ever since.



SECRETARY of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan chats with three Department of Agriculture employes who received Superior Service awards. Left to right, Mrs. Homoselle R. Jarvis, scientific aide of the bureau of human nutrition and home economics; Secretary Brannan, James P. Davis, administrative officer of the production and marketing administration, and John W. Jeffries, assistant state extension agent of North Carolina.

Insulting Remarks Cause Mass Walk-Out At Program

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(NNPA) About 300 colored employees left the audience at an Agriculture Department awards ceremony at the Monument Grounds last Tuesday afternoon as Representative Harold D. Cooley, Democrat, of North Carolina, told jokes that were offensive to them.

Cooley, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, was the principal speaker at the ceremony, at which awards were given to 141 Agriculture Department employees, including five colored, for distinguished service, superior service, and length of service.

Some of the colored employees left the audience when Cooley told his first joke, giving the word "Negro" the heavy accent of "negra." After that he used the vulgar word "nigger" several times.

In his opening remarks, Cooley told a story about two preachers at a revival meeting—one a Virginian and the other a North Carolinian. The text of the sermon concerned the parable of the "five wise virgins and five foolish virgins." Cooley said the North Carolina preacher protested that the percentage of "Virgirians" was too high.

As Cooley spoke persons in the audience of about 4,000 began to leave. Most of those leaving were colored. An Agriculture Department spokesman later said the walk-out on Cooley was in protest of his use of the ugly term

Cooley later told another story concerning a "nigger tenant farmer" who walked around with a rope. More persons departed as he told this story.

Cooley said later he was not sure he used the term. He said that if he did use the term he did not feel required to apologize.

"My record of friendship to Negroes is known," he said. "I certainly meant no disrespect. I don't care if I did say it, either inadvertently or intentionally, because I meant no offense. Any Negro who took exception is hypersensitive."

Cooley further noted that he "shook hands" with one of the five colored award winners, John William Jeffries, of Greensboro, North Carolina, Assistant State Extension Agent.

Four of the colored employees, including Jeffries, received awards for superior service. The others were Mrs. Homoselle R. Jarvis scientific aide in the Beltsfield Laboratory, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; James T. Davis, administrative officer, Production and Marketing Administration, and Mrs. Lea Etta Lusk, home demonstration agent, Washington County, Texas.

Mrs. Lusk was not present to receive her award because she had recently been in an accident.

The fifth colored employee receiving an award is Luther W. McLeod, of Washington, also an employee of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. His award was for length of service. He has been employed in the Agriculture Department for forty years. He began his employment there on May 1, 1911.

Ex-Sharecropper, Soldier Grosses $35,000 From 1,400-Acre Farm

MEXIA, Texas — A former sharecropper, who had dreams of a "place of his own" as he trudged the battlefields of France, came home from war, studied accounting and then applied business methods to farming now grosses about $35,000 annually.

The ex-doughboy farmer is Elijah L. Carter of Mexia, Texas, who owns a 1,400-acre cotton and cattle farm 70 miles away at Midway. He started out sharecropping with his father just before World War I and was in the midst of harvesting a cotton crop when the Army called him.

Hungry for a piece of land of his own, Carter barbered in his tent at night while working his way up to the rank of a sergeant, and saving up to buy a farm when the war was over.

News of the ex-sharecropper's accomplishments was revealed recently by Texas Extension Leader W. C. David in a report last week.

After 11 months in France, he returned home with $1,000 in his money belt. With part of it, he paid down on 50 acres and used the rest to buy a pair of mules, a plow or two, furnish himself, and pay for a correspondence course in accountancy. "I knew a lot about raising cotton, been doing it all my life," says Carter. "But I figured I needed to know something about business and record keeping."

Adding an accountancy certificate to his high school diploma, Carter began applying sound business principles in his farming operations. Soon he expanded his farm, increased his earnings, and built up a reputation in his community for knowing business.

Within four years, he had branched out and bought a soda water bottling -ant that was about to fa... ...ar later, he was ap... ...receivership of... ...ctory. ...rmer didn't like the idea of getting away from his cotton crop. In 1928, he sold his interest in the bottling works and returned to the farm full-time. Needing more land, he picked up 687 acres for $19,000 at a sheriff's auction. Later during the depression, he added 600 acres more to his holdings which are now valued at $90,000.

Until the middle of World War II, Carter worked his farm with mule power and sharecropper labor. At one time there were as many as 12 families on the place. But the armed services and good paying jobs in industry stripped him of most of his croppers.

Seven years ago, he shifted to tractors and hired workers. He has two tractors with various attachments, including a mechanical cotton chopper. Three hired men do all the plowing and handle his beef herd of 150 head. Rusting in the barnyard are dozens of mule-drawn plows and other implements.

Although Carter's books have told him that his cattle are bringing him a larger net return than his cotton, he still looks forward to planting time with great anxiety. "I love cotton," he says, "love to see it grow and flower and burst into a field of fleecy white fiber."

During the growing season, the Texas farmer walks through his fields day after day, checking squares for boll weevils and other insects. He studies weather charts, insecticides, fertilizer mixtures, and the results obtained from vetch, Austrian winter peas, and other legumes. Records of his findings are kept and compared year after year. Any special problems are taken up with County Agent J. C. Gooden.

This kind of scientific farming has made him the best cotton grower in his county. Over the years, he has obtained the highest cotton yield. When he first bought his farm, he seldom got more than 300 pounds of lint cotton per acre. Now he get 450 pounds. Off 176 acres this year, he expects to gin 160 bales.

Carter is beginning to develop pastures for his livestock. Of the 900 acres he has in uncultivated land, nearly 300 are seeded to lespedeza, dallis, and carpet grass. In his pastures graze 103 brood cows, 44 calves, and four registered bulls — three Herefords and a Braham. On an average, he sells 80 head of cattle a year.

All week — Monday through Friday — the Texas farmer lives out on the farm in a ranch house where he pores over his books, supervises his workers, and watches his cotton and cattle. On weekends, he returns to his family in Mexia. He and Mrs. Carter have two young daughters. "We hope they and their husbands will want to farm, and carry on what we have started here," says Carter.

Of FARMS and FARMERS

WITH TRACTOR POWER AVAILABLE, these rusting, mule-drawn plows and the men who used to direct them through the soil are no longer needed. Elijah L. Carter (left) who owns a 1,400-acre farm at Midway, Texas, appraises his abandoned equipment. Most of it will go into the scrap drive for defense mobilization. Looking over the "graveyard" with Carter are State Extension Leader W. C. David (center) and District Agent H. S. Estelle.—USDA photo.

$50,000 Cooperative Cotton Gin

Joseph Hill, left, head ginner of this $50,000 modern co-op gin in the all-colored community of Kendleton, Texas, says his facilities are adequate for processing the larger cotton crop which may be grown in the vicinity this year. Looking at the ginning operation is Texas State extension leader W. C. David of Prairie View A. and M. College. U. S. Department of Agriculture production guides call for a 28 million acre crop. This is 10 million larger than last year's crop.—(USDA Photo.)

Texans Own $50,000 Cotton Ginning Facilities

WASHINGTON, D. C. — A $50,000 co-op gin owned by farmers of Kendleton, Tex., assures cotton growers in that area adequate facilities for processing the larger crops which may be produced this year, says Texas state extension leader W. C. David in a report received by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Acreage guides recently announced by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan call for 28 million acres of cotton to be grown in a balanced production program. This is 10 million acres larger than the 1950 crop, and is in line with the suggested goal of 16 million bales announced last Fall.

The farmers of Kendleton, an all -colored community, raise cotton, watermelons, and turkeys on their flat land as their principal cash crops. Two steps were taken recently by the community to help increase cotton production. One was the development of a drainage system two years ago to provide more acres and higher yields: the other was the construction of a modern co-op gin. White farmers who live nearby also share in the co-operative enterprise.

* * *

THE HEAD GINNER is 58-year-old Joseph Hill, who started working in gins as a boy under the guidance of his father. In fact, ginning is a kind of traditional occupation with his family. Both his father and grandfather were head ginners, and now one of his own sons is apprenticing under him.

The gin has processed as much as 114 bales a day. It gins both picked and pulled cotton, separating bolls and seed from the latter effectively, Mr. Hill points out.

In addititon to operating the gin at a salary of $12 a day, Mr. Hill also owns and operates a 40-acre cotton farm. "I have plenty of time in the Spring and Summer to work my cotton," the ginner says. "Of course, I am busy at the gin in the Fall, and I hire some of the picking done."

* * *

"**IF THE** farmers around here raise more cotton, as most of them seem to be planning to do," Mr. Hill continues, "our gin will have a busy schedule next Fall, but we can handle the crop."

Farmer Who Began As Sharecropper With 50 Cent In Pocket Now Has Big Melon Business

A farmer who started out as as sharecropper with only 50 cents in his pocket now ships 30 carloads of watermelon a year, says W. C. David, Texas State leader of Negro Extension work, in a report received last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The farmer is 44-year-old Hilliard L. Muse of Prairie View, Texas. In addition to 125 acres of watermelons, he also raises some peanuts, cotton, cattle, and hogs. "This gives me a balanced cropping system," says Mr. Muse, "and it's suited to my land."

Adding up his annual returns from crops raised on his 275-acre farm, including the 125 acres he rents in different areas each year for his melons, the former cropper shows a total of nearly $20,000 on the average.

The 30 to 40 carloads of watermelons alone bring him a gross of about $12,000; peanuts, $4,000; cotton, $800; and cattle and hogs, $2,000. But when one mentions expenses, Mr. Muse throws up his hands in a gesture of being robbed.

Mr. and Mrs. Muse married in 1928 and began sharecropping. Up to that time he had been helping his parents more or less as an unpaid hand. "After I bought the marriage license," says he, "I had only 50 cents left." From that year until 1941, he and his family sharecropped near Sunny Side, Texas, raising cotton on halves, but never being able to save up anything.

A few months before Pearl Harbor, the Farmers Home Administration lent them $6,470 to buy 150 acres near P...irie View's campus, and to build a home and barn.

"We like being near Prairie View," says Mrs. Muse, "because it makes it easier to give our children an education." One of their eight children has already entered Prairie View, one is in high school, and the others are on their way up through the grades.

When the Muses first moved to their farm, they tried to raise a big crop of cotton. "It was the only thing we knew," the melon farmer points out. "But the crop failed; the land just wasn't suited to cotton."

Then their county agent, C. H. Poole, got them to try their hand at melons on 10 acres and carry out a cotton-peanut experiment on five acres. The melons brought $400 and the five acres of cotton, only $130. The next year, they planted peanuts on the same acres where the cotton was grown the year before, and their returns from the crop totaled $780, exactly six times what the cotton had brought.

Convinced by the experiment, they have been devoting most of their cultivated land to peanuts and melons ever since. This year, of course, they are raising 13 acres of cotton to help meet the Nation's need for this important fiber. They own two tractors and several attachments.

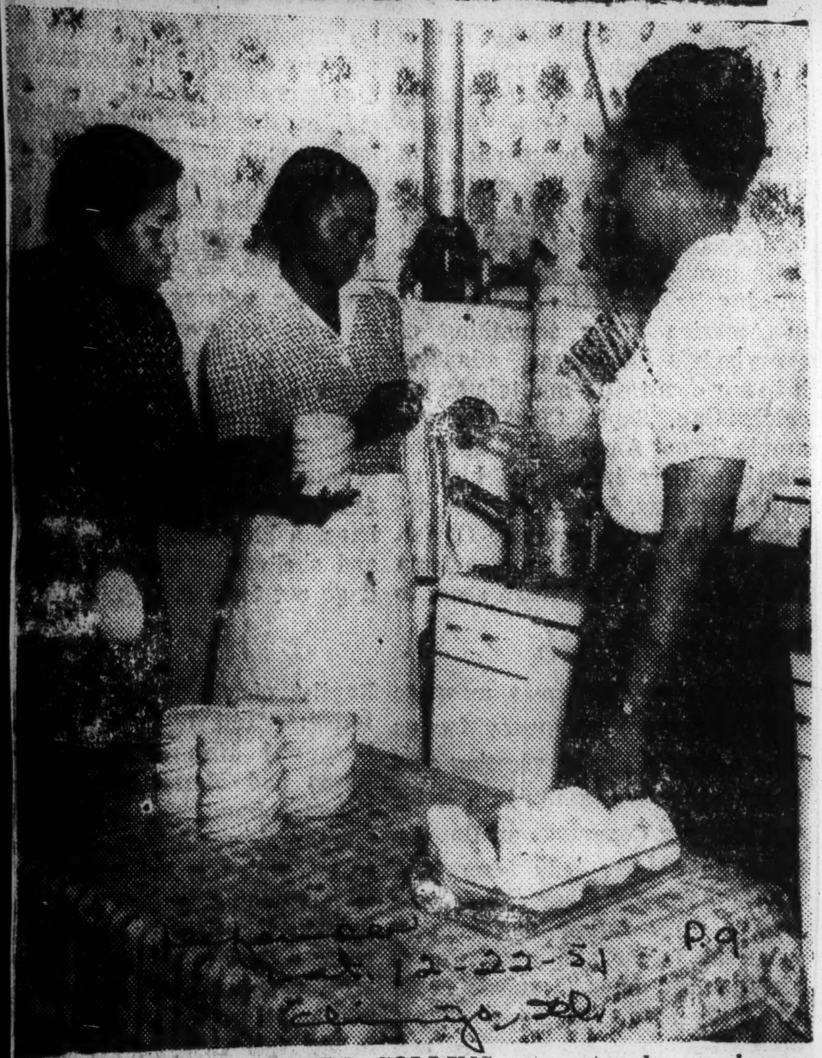
Mr. and Mrs. Muse have increased both their cotton and corn yields by building up the fertility of their land with legumes such as Austrian Winter peas and Dixie Wonder peas.

But the greater part of their own land is in pastures of dallis grass and Bermuda for their 37 head of beef cattle, and 22 hogs. Mr. Muse says they plan to expand their livestock production, keep their melons, peanuts, and corn about where they are, and get out of cotton altogether.

The former croppers have already completed the payments on their farm, 31 years before the last note was due. Now they are concentrating on their children. "We want to give them a much better start than we had," Mrs. Muse asserts confidently.

TEXAN SELLS HIGH GRADE MELONS IN CARLOAD LOTS.—Hilliard L. Muse, left a former sharecropper of Prairie View, Texas, shows three members of the Texas State Extension staff the quality of watermelons he is shipping to the Chicago market. The farmer ships about 30 carloads a year which bring him close to $12,000. Left to right are. Mr. Muse, State Extension Leader W. C. David, District Agent H. S. Estelle, and County Agent C. H. Poole. Ten years ago, Mr. Muse borrowed $6,470 from the Farmers Home Administration to buy a 150-acre farm. Although he had 40 years to pay off the loan, he paid out in nine.—USDA Photo.

Of FARMS and FARMERS



MR. AND MRS. TALFERD COLLINS are not only serving as demonstration farmers for their county, they are also model housekeepers. With the aid of two extension workers, Mrs. Collins (center) is preparing okra and squash for storage in her home freezer. Mrs. Jessie L. Shelton, county home demonstration agent, is at left and Miss Myrtle Garnett, district extension home agent, is at right—USDA photos.

WASHINGTON—A former tenant who was given assistance toward ownership by the Farmers Home Administration, is the first Negro farmer to be selected as a demonstrator by the Lower Colorado River Authority.

Report of the appointment was received by the U. S. Department of Agriculture last week from State Leader W. C. David of the Texas State Extension Service.

The new demonstrator is Talferd Collins, 35, of the Pilot Knob community, just outside Austin, Tex. Within 12 years, he has risen from a landless tenant to full ownership of 120 acres and an average annual gross income of nearly $15,000.

As an example farmer for Travis county, Collins will put into effect improved farming practices designed to help conserve the soil along the Lower Colorado river basin and promote flood control. He will be assisted by LCRA in carrying out the practices.

Collins was selected for the assignment from among six outstanding prospects. His careful, scientific approach to farming and to soil and water conservation were the principal factors which led to his selection.

"He's always experimenting," says County Agent Thomas A. Mayes. "If it isn't fertilizer tests, it's grass mixtures, or the effects of legumes and other soil-building crops on cotton and corn yields. This keeps him moving ahead on a sound basis."

Collins is a native of the Pilot Knob community. His father, a brother, and an uncle farm nearby. He struck out on his own in 1939 as a tenant on 29 acres. His father had given him a pair of mules as a wedding present. Later, the young couple bought a cow and a brood sow.

They made a good cotton crop the first year. With part of their money, they bought another pair of mules, moved into the house where they are now living, and rented more land. By 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Collins were renting 90 acres. It was then that the Farmers Home Administration loaned them $5,990 to buy the place.

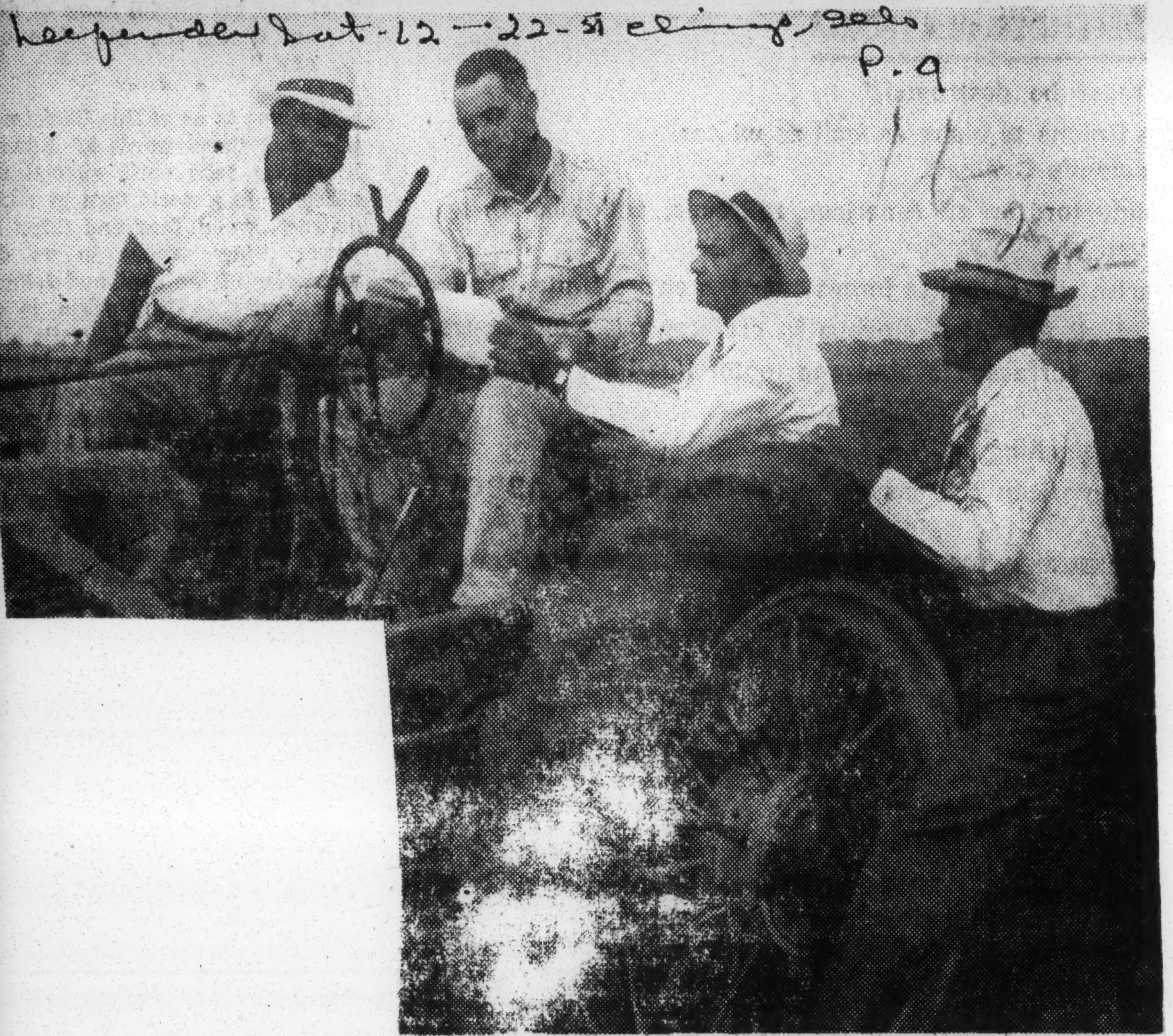
Discarding their mules for a used tractor, the Collinses were able to work the whole farm by themselves, except during peak seasons. They made excellent cotton, corn, cane, and hay crops just about every year and set a record for their area by repaying their $6,000 loan in five years—35 years ahead of schedule. Two years ago, they added 30 acres; paid $1,500 cash for it.

The Collinses are rapidly developing a balanced farm by raising cattle and hogs in addition to cotton. At one time or another this year, the young couple has had 56 head of hogs and 43 head of cattle, including two registered bulls. Their 1951 returns from livestock are expected to range close to $7,000, slightly less than their gross cotton income.

As part of their demonstration, Mr. and Mrs. Collins plan to remodel their home, which already has been modernized by the addition of a bathroom, hot and cold running water, and liquid gas heat. "We've got to have a good home for our children," says Mrs. Collins. They have seven youngsters.

They have talked over their remodeling plans with their home demonstration agent, Mrs. Jessie L. Shelton. Every detail has been considered from landscaping and the location of the combination garage-utility house to bedroom arrangement and provision for closet space. "We are going to be model livers as well as example farmers," they say proudly.

Ex-Tenant Farmer, Demonstrator For Lower Colorado River Authority



TALFERD COLLINS (2nd from left) of Austin, Tex., is first Negro farmer selected as a demonstrator by the Lower Colorado River Authority. Here he shows his letter of appointment to Thomas A. Mayes, county agent; W. C. David, state leader of extension work, and John E. Mayo, district extension agent.

The Bruce Green family, top photo, of Prince George County, Va., produced approximately 100 bushels of corn per acre on twenty acres of land in 1951. Left to right, they are, Bruce Green, Sr., Bruce, Jr., a 4-H club member, and Mrs. Green.

Five members of the 100 Bushel Per Acre Corn Club, bottom photo, receive certificates from S. E. Marshall, left, District Agent of the Va. Agricultural Extension Service.

Those who received certificates were: left to right, Mrs. R. F. Jones, for her son, M. M. Jones, yield 115.54 bushels; Allen Jefferson, 115.24 bushels; A. A. Minnis, for her husband, A. A. Minnis, 105.53 bushels; Eugene Wilder, 105.37 bushels; Allen White, 100.65 bushels per acre, and R. F. Jones, farm agent.

State-Wide Production Going Up

697 Farmers Join 100-Bushel Clubs; 68 Pass 100 Mark

By ROSS W. NEWSOME

PETERSBURG, Va. — Six hundred and ninety seven Negro farmers in Virginia were members of 100-Bushel-Per-Acre Corn Clubs in 1951 according to reports received from Local Farm Agents working in 31 counties. Yields were estimated on 234 farms. The average yield of all farms checked was 92.2 bushels. Sixty eight of the 697 members produced 100 or more bushels of corn per acre.

Banks B. Bayton, of Essex County, with 163.86 bushels, and S. A. Green, of Prince Edward County, with 163.31 bushels reported the highest per acre yields this year.

Among top corn producers for the year were the Bruce Green family, of Prince George County, with approximately 100 bushels of corn per acre on 20 acres, and the Wooden brothers, of Surry County, who produced approximately 75 bushels of corn per acre on 95 acres.

Thousands of farmers in Virginia who were not associated with 100 Bushel Corn Club activities have increased their corn yields from 10 to 25 bushels per acre since 1949. In growing corn, four essential things must be observed if the grower expects to reap a good harvest, they are: good seed bed, suitable hybrid seed, fertility, and shallow cultivaton.

Many years ago the United States Department of Agriculture presented a very interesting example. Fixing the average value of corn at 42.4 cents per bushel, and the cost of production at $14.63 per acre, the Department estimated that 40 acres of corn yielding 75 bushels per acre makes as much net profit as 104½ acres yielding 50 bushels per acre, or 293 acres yielding 40 bushels per acre, or 3,270 acres yielding 35 bushels per acre.

In other words, the farmer who raised 75 bushels to the acre on 40 acres made a net profit of $686 80, and the farmer who raised 3,270 acres producing only 35 bushels to the acre made a net profit of $686.70 or 10 cents less than the farmer who had forty acres. But if the farmer who raised 3,270 acres had produced 75 bushels to the acre instead of 135, hi net profits would have been $56 145 90.

WITH THE present price of corn in Virginia from $1.75 to $1.90 per bushel and expected to go higher within the next few months, farmers with a yield of 100 bushels or more per acre, can stay in the corn game for a long time and make a profit by feeding it to livestock or selling on the corn market.

In 31 counties in Virginia there are 697 members of the 100 Bushel Corn Club for 1951. Yields were not estimated for all farms, and no check was made of 10 members in Albemarle County, 161 members in Brunswick county, 16 in Campbell County, nine in Isle of Wight County, or 20 in Nansemond County.

In other counties participating, however, checks were made of farms in the area and from these checks, the number of farmers averagng more than 100 bushels of corn per acre was determined.

HALIFAX COUNTY had the lowest average per acre yield, with only 59.4 bushels, while Surry County ranked highest, with a 138 bushel average.

Counties which were checked, and the number of 100 bushel producers are: Buckingham, 4; Caroline, 4; Charlotte, 3; Chesterfield, 5; Cumberland, 6; Dinwiddie, 2; Essex, 5; Gloucester, 4; Greensville, 3; King and Queen, 7; King William, 4; Lunenburg, 1; Prince Edward, 10; Prince George, 3; Richmond, 4; Surry. 2: Sussex. 1.

First Annual Negro Congress Held; 4-H Club Winners

Daily World, Sat. 12-27-51 P. 3 Atlanta, Ga.

P. L. IVEY

LaRUE MILLER

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Twenty-three Negro 4-H Club members received special awards at the first annual Negro 4-H Club Congress which opened in Little Rock yesterday. Headquarters for the two-day event is Arkansas Baptist College. About 70 club members, leaders and parents are in attendance.

The Congress is sponsored by the Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service to give special recognition to outstanding club members in the 28 counties in which Negro Extension work is carried on.

Program for yesterday afternoon was a tour of Greater Little Rock sponsored by the Arkansas Utilities Council. Last night the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation entertained delegates at a banquet at the College. Breakfast this morning was given by the Arkansas Chain Stores Council. Lodging was furnished by the Arkansas Economic Council-State Chamber of Commerce. The Negro State Home Demonstration Council furnished decorations and handling of registration.

Big announcement at the banquet was that of champion boy and girl in leadership and achievement, to receive $25 savings bonds. Champion boy is William H. Randall, 17, of Lee County. The girl is Lois Jean Jones, 19, Jefferson County. Winners were revealed by L. L. Phillips, Negro 4-H Club agent.

William has completed 32 demonstrations in five years as a member of the McCollough Union 4-H Club. He has been president and vice-president of the club and is now vice-president of the Lee County 4-H council. In 1950 he was winner of a $50 high school scholarship in 4-H club work.

Lois Jean has completed 31 demonstrations during nine years in the Altheimer 4-H club. She has served as president and secretary of the She has made 86 pieces of clothing and other articles this year.

DRESS REVUE

Winners of the state dress revue is Vandora Galston, 16, Washington 4-H club, Hempstead County, who won over 26 contestants at the state 4-H camp. Her winning ensemble was a one-piece blue checked rayon dress.

FOOD PREPARATION

LaRue Miller, 17, Tucker 4-H club in Jefferson county, prepared 643 meals for her family of ten to take top award in the food preparation contest. She has also given demonstrations to other members of her club.

GARDENING

This year's gardening winner is

POLLY ANN HAYES

BOOKER T HOUSTON

O. V. Wilson, Jr., member of Brickneys 4-H club in Lee County. His success is his year-round garden demonstration gave him 26 vegetables on a half-acre plot. He used insect control measures recommended by the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture to insure success.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

First place winner is Polly Ann Hayes, 16, Sweet Canaan 4-H club in Union county. A club member for four years, Polly Ann specialized this year in improving the kitchen and living room of her home.

POULTRY

FRANKLIN McNEIL, 14, McNeil club in Crittenden County, duplicates his sister's performance in 1949 to take the honor spot in poultry. From 200 chickens he raised 191 and sold 135 as broilers.

TRACTOR MAINTENANCE

JOSEPH C. JONES, 16, New Hope 4-H club in Lee County was first in tractor maintenance. After his father bought a tractor in 1948 he learned to operate it and has maintained the equipment for six months during the heavy work season this year. He has given 12 tractor maintenance demonstrations to other club members.

DAIRY ACHIEVEMENT

FRED EPTING, 17, Barnes 4-H club in Jefferson County, takes top honors in dairy achievement with his Jersey cow and calf demonstration. He won second place and $25 in his class at the Southeast district livestock show. By using recommended feeding methods, he brought milk production up from three to four gallons a day.

$25 SAVINGS BOND WINNERS

The club members received $25 savings bonds for outstanding achievement in health improvement. They are R. L. Ivey, 18, McCoullough Union club in Lee County; and Bobbie Jean Johnson, 16, Lafayette 4-H club in Ouachita county.

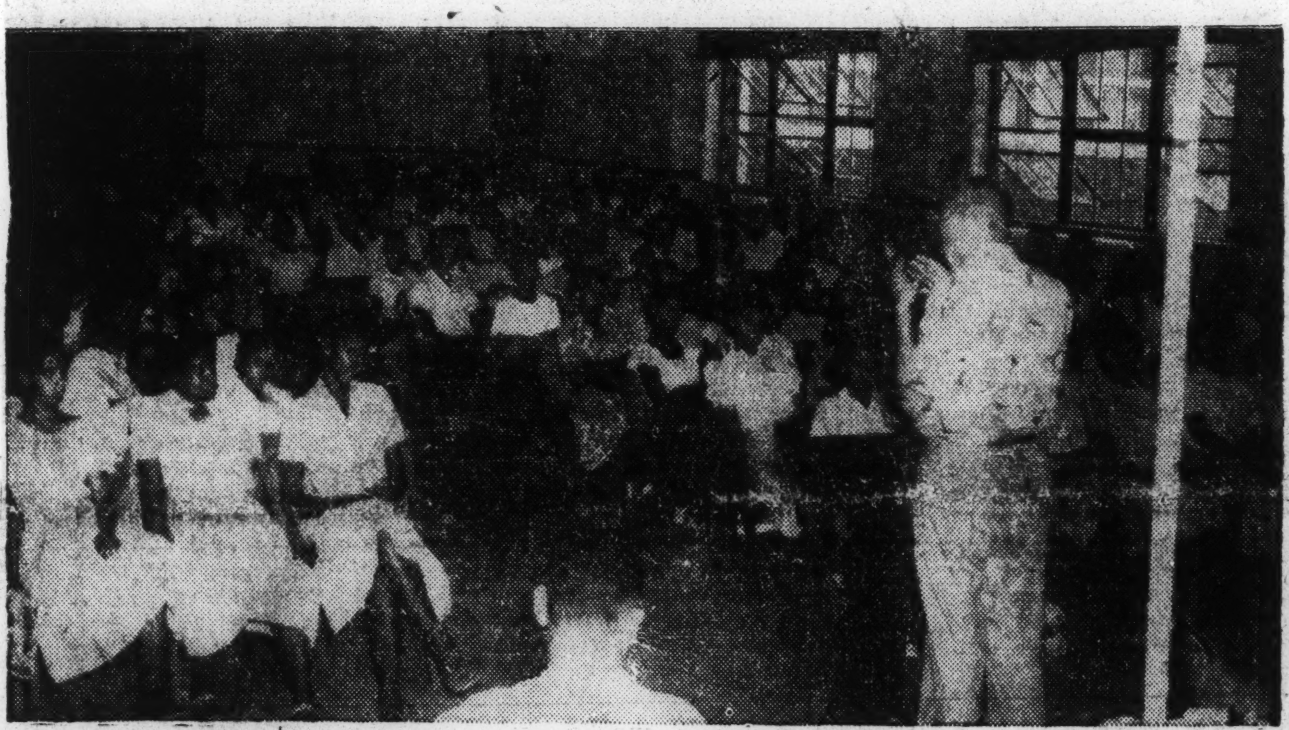
FORESTRY WINNER RECEIVES MEDAL

Forestry winner, Lee Davis Hines, 17, member of Chidester 4H club in Ouachita county, receives a gold-filled medal. He has been in club work five years. Lee Davis planted 2,000 pine seedlings and 1,000 wild seedlings, on four acres. He has given three demonstrations in planting seedlings to farmers and 4-H club members.

1b 1951

4 H-Club

Daily World
9-21-51
Atlanta, Ga.



HEADS LOOK ON WITH APPROVAL — Seen above looking on with nods of approval and praise are: Tuskegee Institute President F. D. Patterson (left) and A. P. I. Extension Director P. O. Davis, of Auburn (right) as Miss Chanie Bush, Decatur, State 4-H Council president, shows them a sample of the 1952 4-H Club calendar and explains the project. County 4-H Club committees in Alabama sold some 20,825 copies in 1950 for $2,967. Sales are now in progress for 1952. Both Dr. Patterson and Director Davis were speakers on the annual 4-H short course program held at Tuskegee Institute last July 21-28.

Miss Bush ended her second year as council president. Miss Joyce Ann Pulley, of Gurley, Route 2, succeeded her as the new president.

Director Davis Speaks — Mr. Davis is shown (in scene below) speaking to the 300 4-H members during assembly hour in a regular session of the short course.

Courier Investigation Discloses National 4-H Clubs Reek With Discrimination From Top to Bottom

By REVELLA CLAY

WASHINGTON—From its bottom to its top, the National 4-H Club, which is allegedly dedicated to making better citizens of its nearly 3,000,000 youthful members, is polluted with outright and obvious discrimination, the Courier learned this week.

An investigation here disclosed that segregation and discrimination are apparently implicit in every facet of the 4-H Club program which has attracted nearly 330,000 Negro youth in seventeen states.

These are the glaring inequities Negro 4-H'ers face and which this investigation has exposed:

1. Negroes are systematically excluded from the National Camp held here annually as an award for outstanding 4-H Club members. Although the camp has been held for twenty-eight years, no Negro has ever attended. White 4-H'ers "encamping" here get the opportunity to see the President, the Secretary of Agriculture, other cabinet officers and members of Congress, in keeping with the over-all purpose of the 4-H camp to instill in the rural youth of the country the basic principles of good citizenship. State Extension directors refused to allow Negro 4-H'ers to hold a separate camp in the nation's capital, and not until 1948 were "regional camps" started for Negroes. These have been held at Southern University, Scotlandville, La.; Tennessee A. and I. State University, Nashville, Tenn.; Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va., and Arkansas A. M. and N. College, Pine Bluff, Ark. Reliable informants agree that the Negro 4-H'ers don't even see the Governors of the states at these regional camps.

2. Negroes are systematically excluded from the National 4-H Club Congress which is held annually in Chicago, Ill., and hence they have no hopes of getting any of the between twenty and thirty scholarships of not more than $300 each awarded to outstanding 4-H'ers at this annual affair.

3. Negro youth have never participated in the International Youth Exchange program of 4-H'ers, which allows youth from this country to go abroad for a year in exchange for youth from other countries who come to the United States, authoritative sources say. These sources say that Negroes have tried to get participation in these programs.

4. No Negroes have ever won the National 4-H Club scholarship of $1,200 awarded to a boy and girl member annually, although they have asked for consideration.

5. No Negroes work on the top policy level of the organization. Officials here admit that there is not a single Negro in the seventy-five-member staff of the Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Moreover, no Negro has ever been a State Extension director. These directors are appointed by the Governors of the state and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. No Negro has ever been appointed by a state Governor. There are only two Negroes holding "field officer" positions. They are, according to officials here, T. M. Campbell whose headquarters is at Tuskegee, and J. W. Mitchell whose headquarters is at Hampton.

6. Negro county agents do not get the same salary for the same work as white county agents. The average salary paid a white county agent is $4,904; the average paid the Negro agent, $3,138. In some states the differential in salary is glaring; as in Alabama where white county agents are paid an average salary of $5,331, whereas Negro county agents' average salary is $2,872; in Arkansas, whites' average is $4,478; colored agents' $2,855. In Florida, white county agents get an average salary of $4,422; Negroes $2,724. In Louisiana, in salaries are fairly high, whites get an average of $5,319; Negroes $3,242. The highest paid white county agents in Louisiana is $7,088, the lowest paid whites, $4,500; the highest paid Negroes, $3,700, the lowest $3,200. In North Carolina the top salary paid a Negro county agent is $4,896; the highest paid a white county agent, $7,476.

7. There are no Negro assistant county agents. There are white assistant county agents in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, forty-three states of the United States. Alaska and five other states have no assistant county agents.

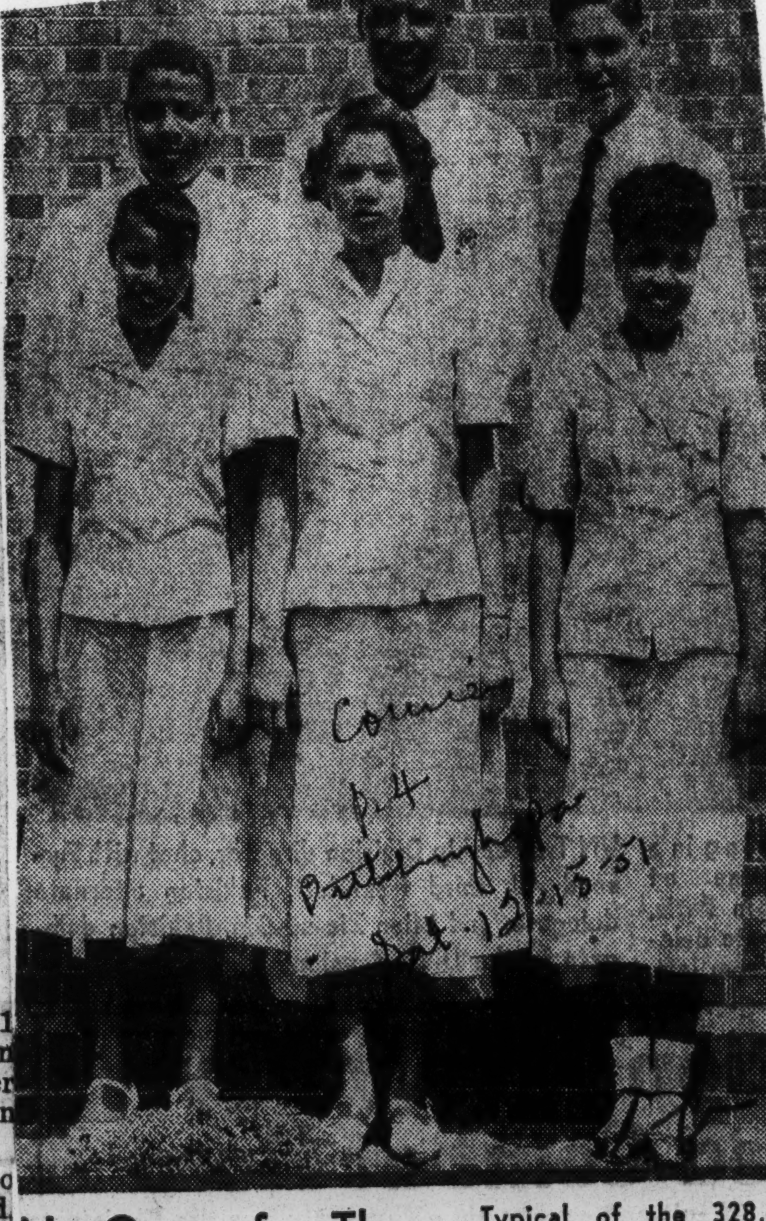
8. Additional documentary evidence shows that Negro home demonstration agents get lower salaries than whites, the total average salary for Negroes being $2,805 as compared to $3,864 for the whites, according to Sept. 1, 1951 figures.

August 23, 1951 figures show that there are 8,681 Negro 4-H Clubs in the country located in seventeen states, with a membership of 328,451. Of that number 145,666 are boys; 182,785 are girls; 258,189 or better than 75 per cent have completed projects.

The membership of the Negro 4-H'ers is limited to the seventeen Land Grant states—Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Missouri, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

White membership covers United States, Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico and boasts 1,886,214 members, a little more than 75 per cent of whom have completed projects.

Ironically, there is a similarity in the white 4-H Club set-up and the Negro club set-up—both white and Negro 4-H'ers take the same pledge, have the same creed and supposedly are working for the same thing—good citizenship.



No Camp for Them—Typical of the 328,451 Negro 4-H'ers who are systematically excluded from the national 4-H Club Camp, held in the nation's capital annually, are these Maryland 4-H'ers. Like other Negro members of the "citizenship building" organization, the 4-H'ers can only attend the segregated Regional Camp held solely for Negroes.

23 Receive Special Awards At 4-H Club Congress In Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Twenty-three 4-H club members received special awards at the first annual 4-H Congress held at Arkansas Baptist college.

The congress was sponsored by the Arkansas Agricultural Extension service to give special recognition to outstanding club members in the 28 counties in which Negro extension work is carried on.

Big announcement at the banquet was that of champion boy and girl in leadership and achievement, to receive $25 savings bonds. Champion boy is William H. Randall, 17, of Lee County. The girl is Lois Jean Jones, 19, Jefferson county. Winners were revealed by L. L. Phillips, 4-H club agent.

William has completed 32 demonstrations in five years as a member of the McCollough Union 4-H club. He has been president and vice-president of the club and is now vice-president of the Lee county 4-H council. In 1950 he was winner of a $50 high school scholarship in 4-H club work.

Lois Jean has completed 31 demonstrations during nine years in the Altheimer 4-H club. She has served as president and secretary of the club, secretary of the Jefferson county 4-H council and is assistant secretary of the state 4-H council this year.

Special recognition was given to Robert Moore of Desha county and Wilma Watkins of Cross county, runners-up, who will be among Arkansas' delegates to the fifth regional 4-H camp next year.

Winners of the two $50 high school scholarships, given by the Negro State Home Demonstration Club Council, are Booker T. Houston, 15, Clarendon 4-H club in Monroe county; and Irene Cornelious, 18, Morning View 4-H Club in Woodruff county.

Savings Bond Winners

Receiving $50 savings bonds for outstanding club work were:

CANNING

Dorothy Gardner, 18, Snow Lake 4-H club, Phillips county. In canning this year she put up 321 quarts of fruits, vegetables and meats.

CLOTHING

Virsie Lee Hines, 17, McNeil 4-H club in Crittenden county. She has made 86 pieces of clothing and other articles this year.

DRESS REVUE

Vandora Galston, 16, Washington 4-H club, Hempstead county. Her winning ensemble was a one-piece blue checked rayon dress.

FOOD PREPARATION

LaRue Miller, 17, Tucker 4-H club in Jefferson county. She prepared 643 meals for her family of 10 to take top award in the food preparation.

GARDENING

O. V. Wilson, Jr., 15, of Brickneys 4-H club in Lee county. His success in his year-round garden demonstration gave him 26 vegetables on a half-acre plot.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Polly Ann Hayes, 16, Sweet Canaan 4-H club in Union county. Polly Ann specialized this year in improving the kitchen and living room of her home.

POULTRY

Franklin McNeil, 14, McNeil club in Crittenden county. From 200 chickens he raised 191 and sold 135 as broilers.

TRACTOR MAINTENANCE

Joseph C. Jones, 16, New Hope 4-H club in Lee county. After his father bought a tractor in 1948 he learned to operate it and has maintained the equipment for six months during the heavy work season this year.

DAIRY ACHIEVEMENT

Fred Epting, 17, Barnes 4-H club in Jefferson county. By using recommended feeding methods, he brought milk production up from three to four gallons a day.

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

R. L. Ivey, 18, McCoullough, Union club in Lee county; and Bobbie Jean Johnson, 16, Lafayette 4-H club in Ouachita county.

FORESTRY

Lee Davis Hines, 17, of Chidester 4-H club in Ouachita county. Lee Davis planted 2,000 pine seedlings and 1,000 wild seedlings, on four acres.

FIELD CROPS

Nathaniel Noble, 18, Humphrey 4-H club, Jefferson county. He had 2 1/2 acres of cotton, an acre of sweet potatoes, 2 1/2 acres of corn and 13 acres of hay crops.

MEAT ANIMAL

R. Z. L. Dorris, 16, Cherry Valley 4-H club in Cross county, took first place in meat animal with a Hereford steer and a Poland China gilt.

HYBRID CORN

Floydell Haley, 15, Burnette 4-H club in Mississippi county, was hybrid corn champion at the state hybrid corn show.

TRACTOR DRIVING

J. C. Council, Lee county, and Olether Swanigan, Monroe county.

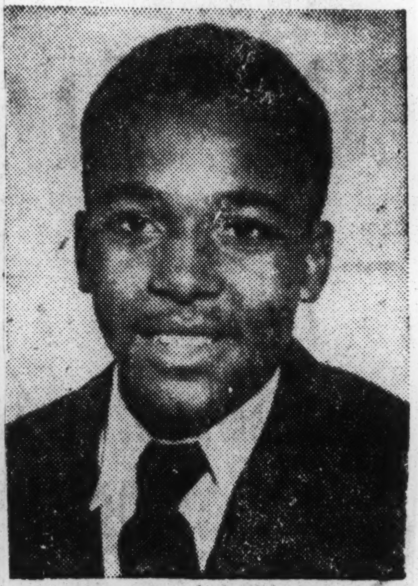
Adult Leaders Honored

Two leaders were presented leadership medals for their work with the Negro 4-H clubs in their communities. Honored were E. M. Harris, Jefferson county, and Mrs. Lucy Abram, Conway county.

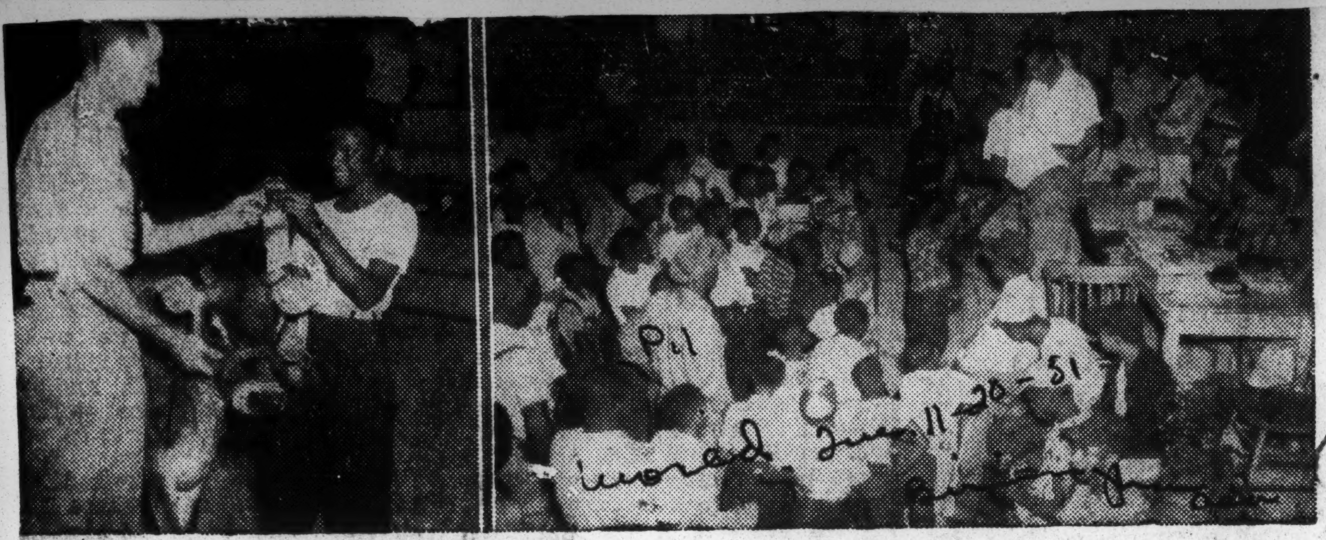
FLOYDELL HALEY

VERSIE HINES

LOIS JONES



WILLIAM RANDEL



TOP JUNIOR HONORS TO MISS JOHNSON—In left scene, Dr. K. M. Autrey, head, Dairy Husbandry Department, Auburn, is seen presenting the junior championship Rosette to Miss Odessa Johnson, of Roanoke,, Rt. 1, whose 15-month-old Jersey heifer won the honor in the fifth annual Piedmont District Dairy Show successfully held last September. It was the second time in two years that the 14-year-old club girl won the honor with her calf. And for the second time in as many years, Odessa's calf won reserve champion honors of the show. The animal placed second to a five year old cow owned by Demus Frazier, of Talladega.

After the show came the "pay-off." In scene at right, old and young gather around to receive awards for show participation in the Dadeville Coliseum. Passing out checks from the platform are F. T. McQueen, teacher trainer, and T. R. Agnew, boys' 4-H Club leader of Tuskegee Institute. Close to $1,500 was paid individuals and county groups as prizes and awards. Over 600 persons from Clay, Chambers, Lee, Coosa, Elmore, Macon, Talladega, Tallapoosa and Randolph counties took part in the mammoth wonderful show.

TWO YOUTHS HONORED FOR NEGRO 4-H WORK

Commercial Appeal

William Randall And Lois Jones Win In Arkansas

Jun 12-2-51

OTHER AWARDS SELECTED

P. 2, Section II

From The Commercial Appeal Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Dec. 1.—A Lee County boy and a Jefferson County girl were named top winners here Friday at the first annual Negro 4-H Congress in the state. The event was held at Arkansas Baptist College here, a Negro institution.

Memphis

The top winners were based on highest honors in leadership and achievement in 4-H work. Champion boy was William H. Randall, 17, and champion girl, Lois Jean Jones, 19.

Others Recognized

They led the field in 23 Negro 4-H Club members who received special awards at the 4-H Congress. The event is sponsored by the Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service to give recognition to outstanding club members in the 28 counties in the state in which Negro extension work is carried on.

Randall has completed 32 demonstrations in five years as a member of the McCollough Union 4-H Club. He has been president and vice president of the club, and is now vice president of his county's 4-H Council.

Lois Jean has completed 31 demonstrations during nine years in the Altheimer 4-H Club. She has served as president and secretary of the club, secretary of the Jefferson County 4-H Council and is assistant secretary of the state's colored 4-H Council.

Special recognition was given Robert Moore of Desha County and Wilma Watkins of Cross County, runners-up, who will be among Arkansas' colored delegates to the fifth regional 4-H camp next year.

Winners Named

Other winners revealed by L. L. Phillips, Negro 4-H Club agent, were:

Winners of two $50 high school scholarships, given by the Negro State Home Demonstration Club Council, were Booker T. Houston, 15, of the Clarendon 4-H Club, and Irene Cornelious, 18, of the Morning View 4-H Club in Woodruff County.

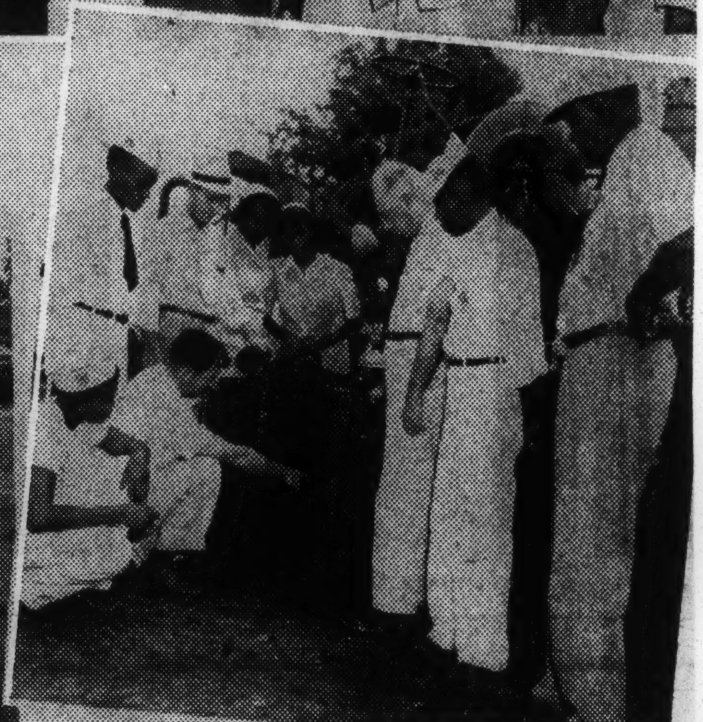
Receiving $50 savings bonds for outstanding club work were, for canning, Dorothy Gardner, 18, of the Snow Lake 4-H Club, Phillips County; clothing, Virsie Lee Hines, 17, of the McNeil Club in Crittenden County; food preparation, LaRue Miller, 17, of Tucker Club in Jefferson County.

Gardening, O. V. Wilson Jr., 15, member of Brickneys Club of Lee County; poultry, Franklin McNeil, 14, of the McNeil Club in Crittenden County; tractor maintenance, Joseph C. Jones, 16, of the New Hope Club of Lee County; dairy achievement, Fred Epting, 17, of the Barnes Club in Jefferson County; health improvement (two winners) R. L. Ivey, 18, of McCollough Union Club of Lee County and Bobbie Jean Johnson, 16, of the Lafayette Club in Ouachita County.

Winning gold watches for 4-H achievement were Nathaniel Noble, 18, of Humphrey Club, Jefferson County, who placed first in field crops division; R. Z. L. Dorris, 16, of Cherry Valley Club, Cross County, who took first place in meat animals; Floydell Haley, 15, of Burdette Club in Mississippi County, hybrid corn winner; J. C. Council of Lee County and Olether Swanigan of Monroe County, both winners in tractor driving contests.

Two adult leaders were presented medals for their work with Negro 4-H Clubs in their communities. They were E. M. Harris of Jefferson County and Lucy Abram of Conway County.

4th Annual 4-H Confab



4-H'ers in Ark. — These scenes are from the recent Arkansas regional conference of 4-H Clubs held at A. and M. College in Pine Bluff. Camp delegates here are shown during their broadcast over the ABC network station from that city. In the group, first, top left, left to right are John W. Mitchell, extension field agent and camp director; Dorothy M. Bowie, Colfax, La.; Robert Crom, U. S. Department of Agriculture (who interviewed the group); Lenora Davis, Sherill, Ark., and Henry Revell Jr., Salem, N. C. Far right: Two outstanding agricultural leaders, Dr. Walter S. Davis, president of Tennessee A. and I. State University, and J. E. Taylor, retired district extension agent of Oklahoma, are shown receiving 4-H awards during the Regional 4-H Camp at Pine Bluff. Left to right are Polly Mae Smith, 4-H'er of North Carolina; John W. Mitchell, camp director; Russell Drew of Oklahoma, Mr. Taylor, T. M. Campbell, associate camp director; Eddie Curry of Tennessee, Dr. Davis, George Foster, 4-H field agent of the Southern states, and Arlene Monroe, clubber of Georgia. Bottom row: These delegates are fascinated by this cub tractor on the school farm. S. A. Haley, right, director of agriculture, explains the versatility of the lightweight tractor. Left to right are L. L. Phillips, state leader of Negro 4-H work in Arkansas; Russell Drek, Haskell, Okla.; Charles Cowan, Conway, Ark.; Roland Banks, Tucker, Ark., and Mr. Haley. Center: Before the clock tower on the campus of Arkansas A. and M. College, leaders and 4-H'ers are shown congratulating Dr. J. R. Otis, president of Alcorn A. and M. College, Alcorn Miss., upon his address before the encampment. Left to right are Fred Madison of Gary, W. Va.; Mary Ellen Corbett, Drew, Miss.; Aubrey D. Gates associate director of the Arkansas Extension Service; Dr. Otis, Vivian Cameron, Sanford, N. C.; H. B. Young, A. M. and N.'s official host; Joan Clark, Milton, Del., and J. G. Richard, assistant director of Louisiana Extension Service. Extreme right: Dale A. Bush, chief engineer of Ben Pearson's Rust cotton picker factory, points to the picking devices in the giant $11,000 mechanical harvester which can gather as much as two bales of cotton in a single hour. Others in the pictures, left to right, are Clarence H. Erwin, Tyler, Tex.; L. V. Powell, Prentiss, Miss.; G. E. Powell, assistant secretary of the factory; Thelma Aldridge, La Grange, N. C.; Martha Dunlap, Charleston, W. Va.; E. V. Smith, factory engineer; Raydell Coursey, Popular Bluff, Mo., and T. M. Campbell, extension field agent and associate camp director.—USDA Photo by Hunton.

Attend From 17 States

Ark. Governor Greets 4-Her's At Pine Bluff

Several Hundred Delegates Attend Encampment at A & MN for Eight-Day Conference

Courier

PINE BLUFF, Ark.—Gov. Sid McMath of Arkansas greeted the delegates to the Regional 4-H Club Camp during their visit to the state capitol in Little Rock. The clubbers were here at Arkansas A. M. and N. College for an eight-day encampment, Aug. 21-28.

Standing on a chair in his conference room where he could see all of the 124 youths who were here from seventeen states, Governor McMath welcomed the group to Arkansas and the Capitol. Earlier the rural boys and girls were also greeted by Secretary of State C. G. Hall of Arkansas.

Date 9-8-51

Like the scheduled speakers on the encampment program, Governor McMath stressed the increased opportunities for education, employment and general advancement which are now open to the youth of America, white and colored.

Pittsburgh

PROMINENT SPEAKERS

Dr. J. R. Otis, president of Alcorn A. and M. College, Alcorn, Miss., and seven other speakers sounded a similar note in addressing the clubbers.

"Get a sound education," Dr. Otis urged, "and then work in the interest of the masses who need your help. Opportunities for service are greater today than ever before," the Alcorn head declared. He praised Arkansas for the increased opportunities for democratic education it is providing for all of the youths of the state.

Turning to the threat of communism, Dr. Otis said that the cells which exist in America stem partly from some of our poor leadership and partly from the failure of democracy to work properly.

MADE TOURS

Other speakers on the eight-day program were Mrs. Josephine H. Kyles of the Federation of Churches, Washington, D. C.; Col. H. Y. Chase of the U. S. Army, Aubrey D. Gates, associated director of the Arkansas Extension Service; Charles Evans, vice president of the Arkansas Power and Light Company; W. Louis Davis of the Chicago Defender, H. B. Young, A. M. and N.'s official host of the clubbers, and J. G. Richard, assistant director of the Louisiana Extension Service.

Following each address, the clubbers separated into small groups to discuss the points made by the speakers. And toward the end of the encampment, the 4-H'ers summarized the whole program.

Speeches, however, made up only a small part of the total activities. The clubbers made sight-seeing tours of five cities and took part in an extensive recreation program. The cities visited were Little Rock, Hot Springs, Eldorado, Crossett and points of interest here.

MANY DELEGATES

During the tour of Pine Bluff, the farm boys and girls visited Ben Pearson's Rust cotton-picker factory where they saw giant $11,000 monsters that can pick two bales of cotton in an hour. Back at the encampment, the 4-H'ers discussed the rate at which these machines may displace hand pickers.

The states represented at the encampment were Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

In addition to sending delegations ranging from two to eight clubbers, each state also sent at least two adult leaders along to accompany the youths. Extension Field Agents John W. Mitchell and T. M. Campbell served as director and associate camp director, respectively.

The encampment closed with an impressive candlelight ceremony on the campus of A. M. and N.

4-H Foundation Holds Meeting, States Purpose

GREENSBORO, N. C.—The 4-H Club Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., composed of prominent persons of the state interested in the welfare of Negro youth, recently held its second annual meeting in the Richard B. Harrison auditorium of A. and T. College.

The primary purpose of the foundation is to establish and maintain 4-H Club camps in the state for Negroes; supplement the 4-H club program among the youths; and to develop the needed skills of rural youth in the art of farming and homemaking.

The meeting, divided into two sessions, was presided over by John H. Wheeler, vice-president of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank in Durham.

Seven new members were added to the Board of Directors. They included George E. Moore, Dr. C. C. Spaulding, Mrs. Joseph M. Bryan, George Coble, P. Huber Hanes, Jr., A. K. Davis and Fred Greene.

RIBBONS FOR 4-H ACHIEVEMENTS — District Extension Agent Paul O. Brooks, right, of Oklahoma, looks over the 26 ribbons which 4-H'ers Valeria and Wilbur Robinson of Hennessey, Okla., have won with their projects. Their pigs and sheep often dominate their divisions of the State Junior Fat Stock show. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Robinson, left and center, were sharecroppers until 1940 when the Farmers Home Administration made them a loan to buy a farm of their own — (USDA Photo)

Club and local merchants, nodded agreement when principal speaker B. F. Bullock, professor of rural sociology at Atlanta University, advised them to "stay on the land and produce."

Ceremonies were held at the Henry County Training School, and a chorus of 50 boys and girls in spanking white choir robes delighted visitors with spirituals like "Steal Away" and "Down by the Riverside."

Henry Reid, president of the Northside Kiwanis Club of Atlanta, headed a delegation of visiting Kiwanians. Baxley and Locust Grove also were represented.

McDONOUGH 4-H PROJECT

Success Stories Told At Ham and Egg Show

By MARJORY SMITH

McDONOUGH, March 22—James Miller, 16-year-old Negro Henry County 4-H Clubber, had a special sparkle on his shoes and in his eyes here Thursday.

He wore his new Easter suit three days early, so he could "look right" when he stepped forward to tell a school auditorium brim-full of interested folk about that prize-winning smoked ham he entered in the County's fourth annual Ham and Egg Show.

James recounted the story of a 4-H Club Pig Chain that started with the loan of an eight-week gilt from his County Agent and had a happy ending. ("Today I'm in business. I've got a registered Spotted Poland China boar, a sow and a new litter!")

WATERING MOUTHS

While they listened, James' 7-year-old brother, Clifford, and show-sponsoring Henry County Kiwanians had something in common:

They listened with watering mouths.

A platform sagging with huge smoked hams, sausage, canned pork and scrubbed, glistening brown and white eggs gave forth a tantalizing aroma throughout Thursday's longlong show.

It distracted the audience . . . but spurred bidding when mustachioed Auctioneer Hollimond Bird, of Baxley, held aloft tangy-smelling, cinnamon-colored hams.

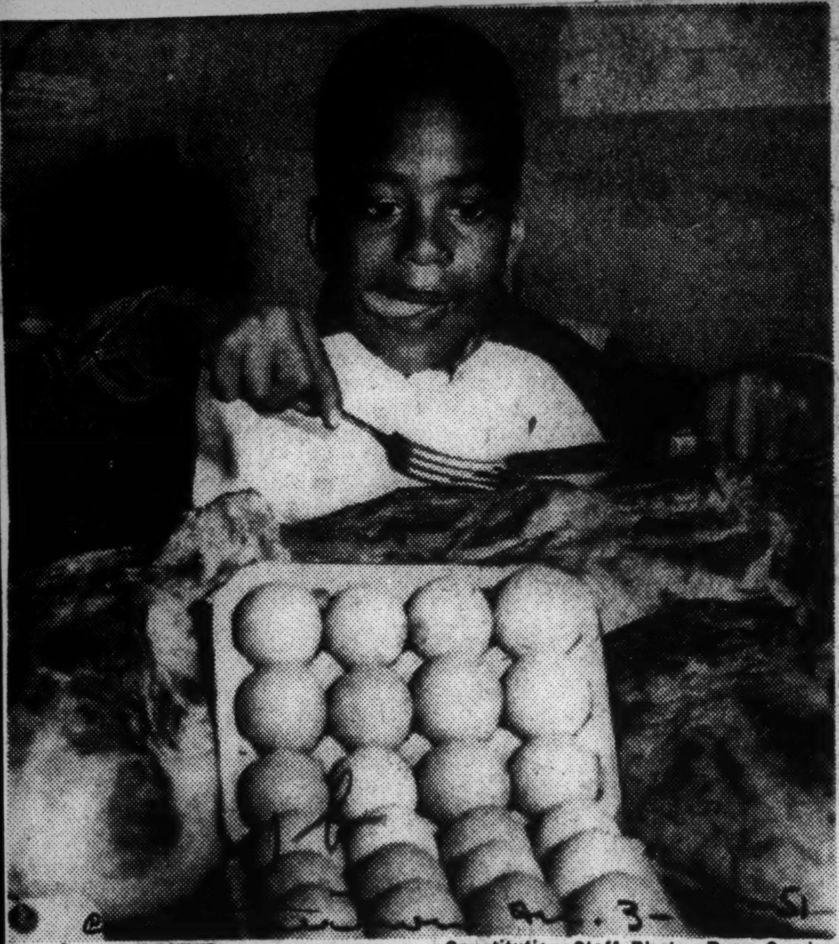
"Champion" ham of the display of 80-odd smoked pieces, a magnificent 10-pounder, was sold to Henry County Kiwanis Club member Cam Mitchell, of Hampton, for $15.50, well over $1 per pound.

Proud champion exhibitor Jesse J. Nutt, of Jackson, a World War II veteran who farms with his father, said he entered the show for two previous years without placing. He said improved breeding and know-how gained from a veterans training course he is talking "told the tale."

BIGGEST SHOW YET

Negro Henry County Agent Clarence Williamson reported more than 100 farm families cooperated in this year's show, "biggest and best to date." Last year the McDonough show was adjudged third in the entire State. Sponsors think it may be tops in this year's ratings.

Proud Negro families, stroking blue ribbons and displaying cash and merchandise prizes donated by the Henry County Kiwanis



Constitution Staff Photo—Ryan Sanders

"MMMMM . . . RECKON I COULD GO FOR THIS?"

Clifford Miller, Seven, Is Ready for Action

Constitution Staff Photo—Ryan Sanders

HENRY COUNTY HAM AND EGG SHOW WINNERS

Jesse J. Nutt, right; 4-H Clubber James Miller

Negro Youth's Grand Champ Animal Nets $1000 at Sale

West Feliciana Youth Congratulated at Show

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Baton Rouge, La., April 6 — Youthful Willie Veal, Negro, 4-H Clubber of West Feliciana parish Friday realized the dream of every 4-H Club youth. He exhibited a grand champion winner at the annual state and livestock and poultry show held at Southern university. President and general manager John Wolf, head of William Wolf Bakery, Inc., purchased the grand champion calf for $1000. Later in an interview with school officials and numerous Negro farm youths Wolf spoke about his and the company's contributions to the development of recreational and educational opportunities for youths of Louisiana.

He also stated that he was a supporter of and was interested in development of rural Louisiana.

Later during the day three Negro employes of Wolf Bakery, A. Walter Batiste, Louise Sellers and Dotty Hayes were on hand for the awards and ceremonies held on Southern university's auction grounds.

The three employes had a total of more than 100 years of service with the bread-making firm.

The trio congratulated the Negro 4-H Club youth and handed him the $1000 check. Young Veal seemed torn by amazement and indecision between the love of his prize farm animal and the money.

GOOD NEWS — Elmer Crosby, 15-year-old tractor driving champion of Alabama, is shown getting the news of his selection as a delegate to the fourth annual Regional 4-H Camp to be held at Arkansas A. M. and N. College, Pine Bluff, Ark., Aug. 21-28. Informing him of his good fortune are State Extension Leader W. B. Hill, left, and County Agent John B. Jordan. Elmer is a son of Mr. and Leslie Crosby Sr. of Evergreen, Ala.—USDA Photo.

Alabama Youth Raises Swine

4-H Tractor King Among 120 Delegates at Reg'l

WASHINGTON—A champion 4-H tractor driver, Elmer Crosby of Evergreen, Ala., will be among the 120 delegates who will attend the fourth annual Regional 4-H Camp, Aug. 21-28, at Arkansas A. M. and N. College, Pine Bluff, Ark.

Announcement of Elmer's selection was made last week by State Leader W. B. Hill of the Alabama Extension Service in a report to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The tractor-driving champion and seven other clubbers will make up Alabama's delegation to the regional encampment.

Over-all, about 120 farm boys and girls from seventeen Southern States will attend the camp.

DRIVER THREE YEARS

The 15-year-old 4-H'er has been driving a tractor for three years. Now that an older brother is with the armed services in Korea, Elmer and his brother, Leslie Jr., do all the tractor work on their father's 160-acre farm. During the busy season, they operate their tractor alternately around the clock.

Recently he competed in a tractor-driving contest with 4-H'ers from all over Alabama and drove away with the first prize award. "I like driving the tractor," says Elmer, "it makes farming a lot easier."

But the 4-H'er doesn't limit his club activities to tractor driving. He also has pig, corn and pasture projects. The youth has eleven Durocs, three acres of corn and five acres of crimson clover and lespedeza. "This provides good grazing for my hogs year-round," the clubber pointed out.

By planting his corn on land on which blue lupine has been turned under, Elmer has increased his yield from a little over fifty to nearly eighty bushels per acre.

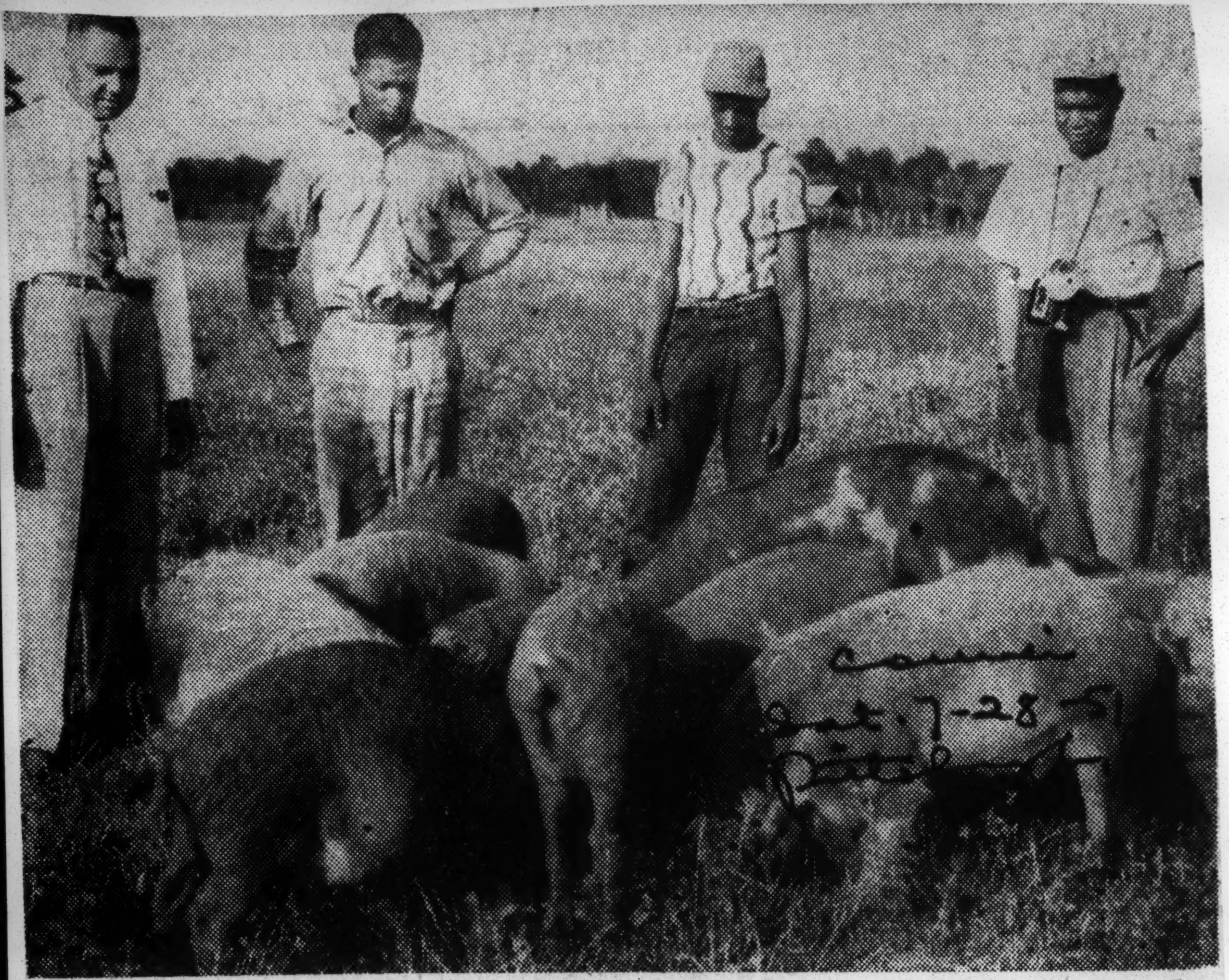
FERTILE LAND

The youth's father, Leslie Crosby Sr., believes in building up the fertility of his land, too. For the last six years he has been one of County Agent John B. Jordan's best soil building demonstrators. Two years ago he planted sixty acres of blue lupine, harvested seed from fifty acres and turned under ten. His yield of cotton grown on the ten acres was double that produced on the rest of his farm.

Mr. Crosby started out as a tenant nearly twenty-five years ago. By following recommended farming practices, he soon climbed into ownership. Today, he owns 160 acres and a successful logging enterprise. He has five logging trucks and employs a labor force of eight men.

Elmer's mother is a demonstrator, too. She help her neighbors with their sewing and canning problems. Last fall, Mrs. Mrs. Crosby won first place in the county dress revue, and every year, she crams her pantry with home canned fruits, vegetables and meat.

The tractor-driving champion hasn't decided definitely what he wants to be, but he likes living on the farm.



ELMER IS VERSATILE—These eleven pigs grazing crimson clover and lespedeza, belong to Elmer Crosby, too, proving that in addition to being the best 4-H tractor driver in Alabama, he also knows how to raise hogs and develop a pasture. Left to right, are: State Extension Leader W. B. Hill, Leslie Crosby Jr. (Elmer's brother), Elmer and County Agent John B. Jordan.—USDA Photo.

AGENT J. T. ALEXANDER states that in the first Poultry Show and Contest for Negro 4-H Club boys and girls of Montgomery County, Fred Hall Jr., a 4-H Club boy of Mt. Meigs Community, went out in front with his exhibit of six choice New Hampshire Red Pullets.

He took top award honors among the blue ribbon winners at the Poultry Achievement Day program staged at the County Training School at Mt. Meigs Friday, Sept. 28, 1951. An additional award of a New Hampshire Red male bird was given him by Tuskegee Institute through Dr. R. A. Mundy, of the Poultry Department, to go with his flock of pullets back home.

Miss Alma Turnipseed of Cecil Community was a close second blue ribbon winner with her choice six pullets, and Miss Otis Calloway of Mt. Meigs Community trailed in third place with her six choice pullets among the blue award winners.

The four red award winners were the following 4-H Club members: Miss Silver Lee Barnett of Mt. Meigs Community; Messrs. Phillip and Theodore Hendrix of Hickory Bend Community, and Miss Catherine Pickett of Mathews Community.

The three white award winners were Stanford Barnett, of Mt. Meigs Community, and Miss Viola Fuller, of Macedonia Community, in the south end of the county, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Harriel of Lomax Community.

The three blue award winners received $6 each, the four red award winners received $4 each and the three white award winners received $2 each.

The awards were made by Mr. B. H. Leyburn, manager of the Sears, Roebuck store in Montgomery. he Achievement Program got under way at 11 a.m., with individual judging by the 4-H poultry leaders, under the supervision of Dr. R. A. Mundy and E. J. Jefferson, both of the Poultry Department of Tuskegee Institute.

They announced as winners in the individual judging Miss Mary Elizabeth Harrill of Lomax Community, first place; Miss Viola Fuller of Macedonia Community, second place, and Master Phillip Hendrix of Hickory Bend Community, third place.

* * *

THERE WERE 60 choice pullets on exhibition, selected from the 500 chickens which were donated by the Sears Roebuck Foundation through its representative, Mr. W. C. Greenway of the Atlanta office.

Following the judging activities Agent J. T. Alexander presented Mr. W. B. Hill, state leader for Negro work, who explained the 4-H Poultry Program. He stated that it was co-sponsored by the Extension Service and the Sears Roebuck Foundation.

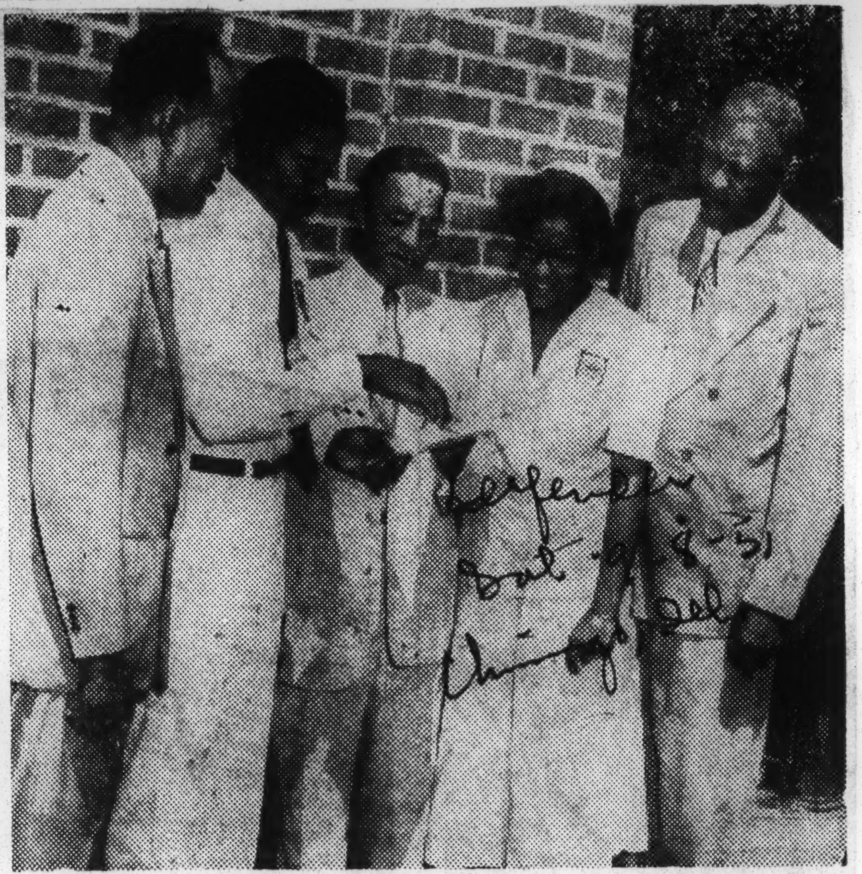
Among other things, he said that "Growing out of a conference between myself and Mr. John P. Weeks, specialist in poultry marketing, Auburn, the Sears Roebuck Foundation agreed to provide 50 chicks for each of ten 4-H members in a county

"The chicks were to be grown out by the 4-H Club members according to Extension Recommendations. The cockrels were to be sold at broiler age, and when the pullets matured a county show and contest was to be held, and for this show Sears Roebuck would provide $40 in prizes

"Also, in order to continue the project the following year, the club members receiving the chicks are to turn over to the Extension Agent six pullets to be sold to provide money for buying other chicks Therefore, the cash received from the sale of each six birds will be used to start other 4-H members with other poultry projects on the same basis the following year"

Prof. O. L. Pinkston, principal, was very kind in his words of welcome and high in his praise of the achievement program, and spared no pains in making the facilities of the school available for carrying out the Achievement Day program.

4-H'ers From 17 States Attend Regional Meeting In Pine Bluff

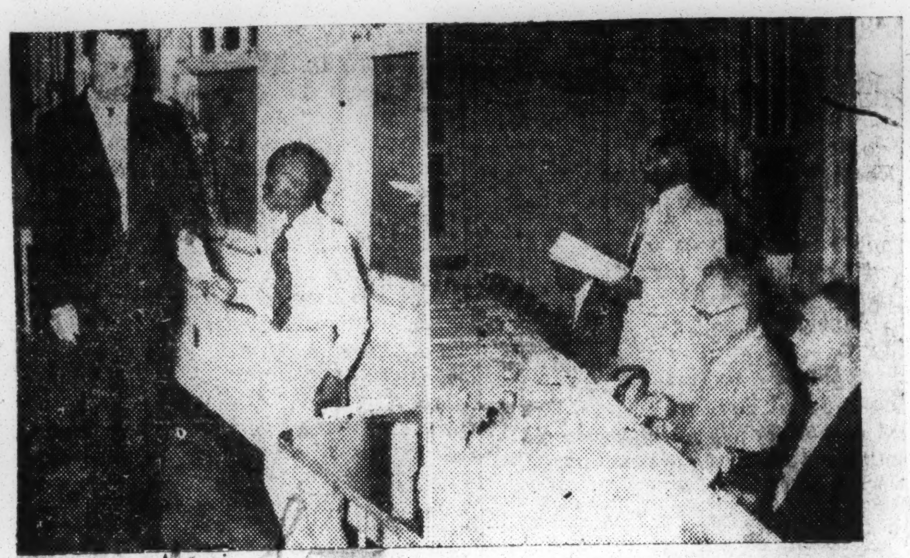


DELEGATES FROM 17 states gather on campus of Arkansas State college, Pine Bluff, for Regional 4-H camp meeting. The young 4-H'ers were greeted by Gov. Sid McGrath of Arkansas during huge jamboree, which highlighted demonstrations, exhibits and open house. In photo at left, delegates are fascinated by club tractor. Left to right, L. L. Phillips, state leader, Negro 4-H work in Arkansas; Russell Drew, Haskell, Okla.; Charles Cowan, Conway, Ark.; Roland Banks, Tucker, Ark.; and S. A. Haley, director of agriculture, who explains how the tractor operates. Another speaker at camp meeting (center photo) was W. Louis Davis, representing the Chicago Defender. Davis announced that the Defender will, next year, award $300 scholarships to four qualified 4-H clubbers. In photo are left to right: John W. MITCHELL, camp director; Kendell Beck, Waco, Texas; Davis; Mary Eleln Corbett, Drew, Miss., song leader; and T. M. Campbell, associate camp director. In photo at right, Mrs. A. H. Jones, resident teacher trainer in home economics at A. M. and N. college, shows delegates one of the stoves in the school's modern kitchen. Left to right: Irma Inell Mapp, Mayfield, Ga.; Florine Carter, Ruffin, S. C.; Mrs. Jones, and Mandy Fort, Russellville, Ky.—Grice photos.

Defender
Date 9-8-51
Chicago, Ill.

A GRAND SHOW THEY HAD — The scene at left above shows Adolph Jenkins, 4-H Club boy, receiving a rosette from State 4-H Club Agent T. R. Agnew (at left), as first prize for his Jersey cow being acclaimed grand champion at the second annual dairy show held in Lowndes County. Jenkins is a grade B milk producer. His cow placed first in a group of 36 animals.

Scene at right views Miss Ethel Harris, State 4-H Club leader for girls, talking over 4-H work with two Lowndes club girls who displayed their animals at the mammoth gala dairy show. Participants received over $150 in ribbons and cash prizes at the event.



"KING" WITH HIS CHAMPION — T. R. Agnew, state 4-H leader for boys, (at left) is seen presenting a cash prize award to Ned Jackson, of Thompson, for showing the champion pen-of-three calves at the Seventh Annual Montgomery Fat Stock Show for Negroes. Jackson received the award at the annual banquet sponsored by the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce and held in the Alabama State College Dining Hall, Montgomery.

Sherman Briscoe, information specialist, USDA, Washington, D. C., was main speaker at the Montgomery banquet for young livestock exhibitors. More than 240 4-H Club and NFA members, parents, vocational teachers, and home demonstration agents attended the gala event. Briscoe is seen in right scene (above) addressing the group.

Negro 4-H'ers Offered Awards In 15 Projects

SAVANNAH— A chance for the first time in history to compete for awards in 4-H programs offered through the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Chicago, makes this a banner year for Georgia's more than 43,000 Negro 4-H club members.

Fifteen projects have been accepted, Alexander Hurse, Negro state 4-H club agent, said in announcing the expanded 4-H program. Hurse continued that national business organizations are offering cash awards and trips for championship work in each activity.

While Negro boys and girls have participated in these projects before, it was pointed out that the new awards program is expected to increase interest and enrollment.

The program includes the following projects and sponsors: canning, Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corporation; achievement, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work; dairying, Lederle Laboratories Division of American Cyanamid Company; dress revue, Simplicity Pattern Company; forestry, American Forest Products Industries; field crops, International Harvester Company; food preparation, Kelvinator Division of Nash-Kelvinator Corporation.

Gardening, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company; health, Kellogg Company; home improvement, Sears-Roebuck Foundation; meat animal, Thomas E. Wilson; poultry, Dearborn Motors Corporation; soil and water conservation, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company; tractor maintenance, American Oil Company.

P. H. Stone, state agent for Negro Extension work, Camilla Weems, assistant state agent, and Hurse, with headquarters at Savannah State College Branch, are directing the program on a state level. Negro county and home demonstration agents are supervising the boys and girls locally.

Negro 4-H'ers will hold their first State 4-H Club Congress in December at the State Negro 4-H Club Camp, Dublin, to select project champions. Two top winners in each of the 15 fields will attend the congress to compete for first and second in the state. The trips will be part of their awards, and they will receive cash after their expenses are paid.

A feature of the congress will be the first annual 4-H banquet honoring state winners.

A banquet in recognition of champions in a community improvement contest will also be held at this meeting. It will be given by the Atlanta Journal, sponsor of the community improvement work. Nearly 100 Four-H clubs in Negro communities over the state are taking part. Fifteen top communities will share $500 in prizes, with the champions getting $100.

600 North Carolina Boys, Girls Attend 4-H Club Meet

RALEIGH— (ANP)— More than 600 rural boys and girls from 50 counties attended the 21st annual Negro 4-H Club week at A and T college last week, according to R. E. Jones, Negro State agent for the college extension service. Theme of the week was "Working Together for World Understanding." Delegates represented 45,000 state club members.

Dedicated to 4,800 volunteer 4-H Club leaders, the conference centered this year's education classes on developing the club pledge. Each day for four days, the conference discussed a different part of the pledge.

Discussion leaders included:

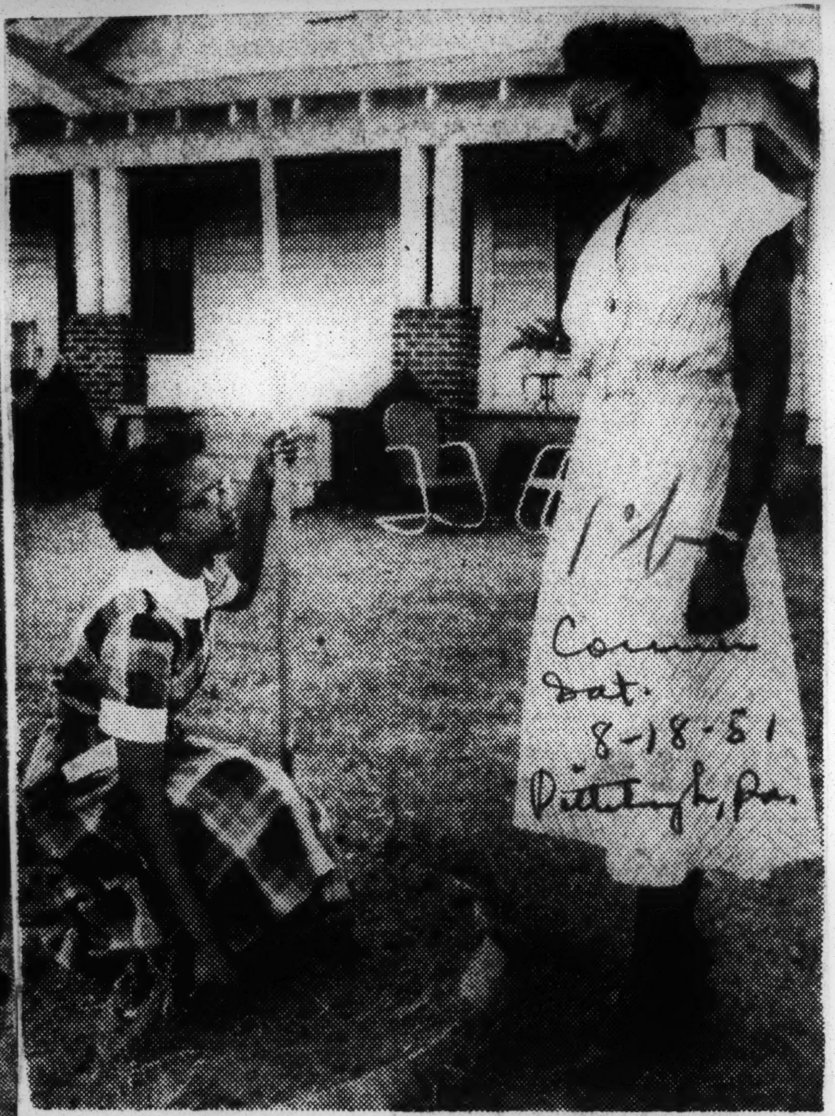
Ruth Current, state home demonstration agent; R. L. Wooden, professor of visual education, A and T college; Mrs. B. B. Ramseur, extension health and nutrition specialist, and State agent Jones.

Speakers for the conference included:

Dr. Clyde A. Erwin, State superintendent of public instruction; Dr. C. Sylvester Green, executive secretary, Medical Foundation of North Carolina; Bertha Moore, state winner of the Green Pastures speaking contest, and Dr. J. W. Seabrook, president of Fayetteville State Teachers college.

W. C. Cooper, 4-H Club specialist, and Idell Jones, assistant specialist, arranged the program.

TWO OUTSTANDING LEADERS—Dr. Walter S. Davis (2nd from right), Pres. of Tenn. A & I, and J. E. Taylor (2nd from left), retired district extension agent of Oklahoma, are shown receiving 4-H awards during the regional 4-H camp at Arkansas A. & M. College. Awards also went to Dr. I. O. Schaub of N. C., and H. H. Dudley of Georgia.



NEW 4-H CLUB AGENT—Miss Alberta Dishmon, right, is the newly appointed state agent for Mississippi 4-H Club girls. She is observing the yard beautification project of Zell Hearn, 4-H Club member of Byhalia, Miss. The new club agent is a former home demonstration agent of Lafayette County, Miss., and is a graduate of Mississippi Industrial College.—USDA Photo.

1c 1951 Alabama

Market Prices Are Higher—

Farmers Faced With Problems Of Supplies, Labor Shortages

By A. W. JONES

As Alabama farmers reach the halfway mark in 1951 they find a picture much different from that of most years. One big difference is the strong market demand for farm products that has arisen from the country's great mobilization effort.

Normally, one of the farmer's major problems is finding and maintaining market outlets. But this year his chief concern has been in getting enough supplies, equipment, labor and other essentials to produce a crop.

The sale prices of farm products are higher than they were last July 1. But the costs of farm supplies are up also. The level of prices paid farmers for their products reached a record high this February. In April the price level of things they buy also reached an all-time high.

Some of the products that have advanced most in price during the last year are cotton, cottonseed, corn, beef cattle, eggs, and chickens. On the other hand, Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes sold for less in May of '51 than they did a year earlier.

As measured by parity, the guide most people use for comparison, farmers are now in a stronger position than they were in 1950—but are not quite as well off as they were five months ago. In June of 1950 the parity ratio stood at 97—three points under parity. In February of this year the ratio had advanced to 113, but by May it had dropped to 108.

Right now, farmers are looking toward this year's harvest. They and others will be greatly interested in official estimates on crop production that are to be released in early July. The size of our cotton crop will determine how we meet domestic and export needs and add to depleted carry-over stocks. And the size of the corn crop will largely determine the fate of booming livestock and poultry industries.

The job for the second half of the year is that of harvesting and marketing what may be several bumper crops. In view of crop sizes and the scarce labor supply, this promises to be a terrific and trying task.

Sift Mexican Threat To Dixie Farm Hands

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Farm leaders from all over the Mid-South were present at a session held at the Peabody Hotel here last week in regard to high cost of farm labor.

Recent increases in wages for Negroes was the main topic for discussion.

The subject of increasing cotton chopping and picking costs and replacing Negroes with Mexican hands was also discussed. Present rates for Negro choppers is from $5 to $7.50 per day. It was argued that Mexican labor was available for 40 cents per hour.

Delegates unanimously agreed to engage Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture, and hear his views on the subject.

House Bill Authorizes Hiring Mexican Wet-Backs

By the Associated Press

A bill authorizing American farmers to contract for laborers from Mexico passed the House late yesterday, 240 to 139, but headed into a dispute with the Senate over a House provision opening the way for the hiring of "wet-backs."

That is the term used in the Southwest to describe Mexicans who have entered this country illegally, by such methods as swimming the Rio Grande.

The Mexican farm labor authorization passed by the Senate last month prohibits farmers from hiring "wet-backs," under penalty of jail sentences and fines.

The House bill would permit employment not only of legally entered Mexicans, but also those who are here illegally, provided they are otherwise eligible for admission and that satisfactory arrangements can be worked out with the Mexican government. The present Mexican-United States agreement on the importation of Mexican laborers expires July 15.

CONGRESS APPROVES MEXICAN FARM LABOR

Bill To Import Workers Awaits Truman Signature

WASHINGTON, June 30.—(AP)—Congress Saturday passed a bill authorizing the Federal Government to recruit farm laborers in Mexico.

If President Truman signs the bill, the secretary of labor will be permitted to bring Mexicans to this country to meet labor shortages.

American employers would take the workers from reception centers to farms. They would pay up to $15 for moving workers to the reception center plus the total cost of taking them to their farms.

Mexicans would go only to areas certified by the secretary of labor as having shortages of domestic workers. The United States Government would guarantee performance of contracts between workers and employers.

Passage of the bill in both houses of Congress came on the expiration date of an agreement between the United States and Mexico. Mexico has refused to renew the agreement under which United States employers could go to Mexico to recruit workers.

Senate and House conferees knocked out an amendment by Senator Douglas (D., Ill.) which would have prescribed severe penalties for farmers hiring "wet-backs"—Mexicans who enter this country illegally.

The bill's recruiting program would end Dec. 31, 1952. Mexicans are needed mostly for work in cotton and sugar beet fields.

Negro Farm Laborers Idle; Congress To Import Workers

Informer Sat. 5-19-51

WASHINGTON — (A P)— Many farm laborers of this country are becoming more and more concerned over the effort made by the Federal government to import foreign workers from Mexico, Puerto and other countries to the United States to do farm work while there are thousands of unemployed Americans, including Negroes, American Indians, native-born Mexicans and white farm workers.

After much debate, the senate approved a bill to recruit Mexican farm workers for seasonal employment on short-handed American farms. The bill provides for the U. S. Government to pay the workers' traveling expenses to various centers, and farmers are expected to pay the fare from the centers to their respective farms.

It also commits the government to pay medical expenses and funeral expenses of workers who sicken or die while under the jurisdiction of the government.

In the meantime, the Puerto Rican government has established a territorial employment service affiliated with the U. S. Employment service to set up an island pool of 100,000 Puerto Rican workers so that they may be more easily available to agricultural and industrial workers in this country. Jamaica has 50,000 workers who want to come to the U. S. t work.

Houston Tex.

Goodwin was questioned on the advisability of importing the workers to the U. S., by Sen. Chevez of New Mexico who shows great concern about what is going to be done with the American workers to transport them to the spot where there is an acute labor shortage.

"What ar you going to do about the Indians?" asked the New Mexico senator. "They can get killed on Okinawa or raise a flag on Iwo Jima, but what are you going to do to get him a job on a farm?"

Chavez pointed out in this committee hearing that there are 90,000 Indians in his state who were good enough to be killed in Korea, but the government prefers to get some Jamaican or Mexican laborers rather than put some of these Indians to work.

What is true of American Indians is definitely true of Negroes, but there was no one in the commitee to argue the point for the Negro laborers living on southern farms and who areb barred from working in factories which are designed in the south for "whites only".

One writer recently called attention to the 44,000 "Volksdeutsche", (or persons of German origin) who are being brought to this country by the Displaced Persons act under the pressure of American defense production requirements, while there are still thousands of Negroes who are denied decent employment because the Congress of the United States continues to turn thumbs down on a fair employment practices act.

While this gesture is commendable by our big-hearted Uncle Sam, the writer continued, still it is inconceivable how he can stand among his own tax-ridden charges gazing thousands of miles across the sea, forgeting that the same Americans who carried him over the defense production hump in World War II, are still here.

Added to them are thousands who fought in the war and who are now ineligible for the firing line, but are ready and qualified to step into the production line, proclaimed this writer.

While America places the welcome mat out with housing provided and jobs waiting for the DP's to step off the gangplank, the Senate and House of Representatives go into a stalemate everytime any mention is made of FEPC legislation, claimed this editor.

He further pointed out that the people whom we are welcoming into our midst are representatives of the same nations which we were cussing and calling names a few years ago because they were bearing arms against us. While it is only our Christian duty, he implied, to "forgive and forget" still it is not understandable how Uncle Sam "forgets the hordes of his able-bodied nephews on this side of the stream who are denied the chance to enjoy America as their heritage while he preaches democracy around the world."

Labor Today

50-Year Neglect of Farm Workers By State Must Cease, Corsi Says

Industrial Labor Got the Breaks

By NELSON FRANK,
Staff Writer.

"For the past half century we have been concerned with the industrial worker and have neglected the highly important farm worker," said Edward Corsi, State Industrial Commissioner.

His Department of Labor is now celebrating its 50th anniversary as a unified agency and the commissioner was telling of its past activities and future plans.

Bureaus Consolidated.

The department came into being in 1901 as a consolidation of several bureaus that had operated from the 1880s. These were mainly the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Office of Factory Inspector and the Mediation and Arbitration Board.

Starting with 64 workers the department has expanded over the years until today with thousands of investigators, statisticians, hearing officers and dozens of other categories, it administers the complex labor laws of the state.

"The great advantage we have here in New York State," said the commissioner, "is that everything dealing with the worker is housed within one department. That makes for efficiency and co-ordination of effort."

Protected Immigrants.

He recalled how the early aims of the department were to protect the immigrant worker from exploitation. At the same time there was the job of protecting the American worker from the threat of lower pay and worse working conditions that the immigrant would accept. "To this day the state prohibits aliens from employment in public works," noted Mr. Corsi.

As the immigrant worker became integrated into the industrial setup, there was a great drive to protect women workers from night work, cheap home work and other conditions. Then the problem of protecting child workers became foremost.

Neglected Legislation.

"Now," said the commissioner, "the trend is towards even greater protection of the worker — his health and welfare."

But the future must certainly see greater interest taken in the well-being of the 269,000 year-round farm workers and the 60,000 other workers who aid in state crop harvesting.

"A whole area of labor legislation has been neglected," emphasized Commissioner Corsi.

He noted that many farmers are getting voluntary workmen's compensation for their workers as well as other key protections long held by the city workers.

But there is still no unemployment insurance for these farm workers and they are excluded from laws covering their brothers in the industrial section of the state.

"As I see it, we have to give these farm workers all the benefits that the industrial worker now gets. We must make his job so good and secure that he won't go off the farm and into industrial employment. That is what the future task of our department must strive for," said Mr. Corsi.

500 Longshoremen To Meet Here July 23.

AFL's International Longshoremen's Assn. will hold its quadrennial convention in the Hotel Commodore, here, starting July 23. Some 500 delegates are scheduled to attend from all over the country as well as Canada, Alaska and Puerto Rico.

CIO Still Claiming 6,000,000 Members.

In a new booklet, CIO still claims its persistent 6,000,000 members. Listed are 25 national unions as well as the statement that there are nearly 400 state and city councils in CIO.

Farm Employment Drops In South Despite Near Record Cotton Crop

WASHINGTON — Despite the record pre-September harvesting and ginning of cotton this year, 132,000 fewer persons were employed on farms in the South during the latter part of August than a year ago, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Pre-September ginning totaled 2,014,444 bales of this year's near record 17 million-bale crop. During the same period last year, only 859,401 bales were ginned, but on the other hand, 6,022,000 persons were at work on farms in the South — picking cotton and performing other chores. This year's labor force during the August survey period numbered only 5,890,000.

The reduction of 132,000 consisted of 121,000 family workers and 11,000 hired hands. However, in Texas and Louisiana, Farm Employment Service offices reported that the demand for cotton pickers was greater than the supply at prevailing wages.

In most of the South, local labor was supplying the demand for pickers. Nevertheless, requests had been received during August by Farm Employment Service offices in most States for more workers than were expected to be available locally. This year's cotton crop is estimated at 17,291,000 bales, third largest on record.

The gap in the labor force is being partly filled by mechanical pickers and strippers. Between 1947 and 1951, manufacturers shipped 6,917 pickers and strippers to distributors and dealers in the South and West.

Cane Worker Whipped, Flees Farm

A tear-jerking story of fear, tension, hate and the abuse of scores of impoverished Negro tenant farmers who are living as peons on many plantations in Louisiana, was told this week by a 31-year old run-away, destitute sugar cane and rice worker who fled his overseer who had brutally whipped him in a cane patch.

He is George Green who has found a haven in New Orleans and defies any suggestion to return to his 'master.'

After four days and nights of wandering about the streets of the city without food, a place to stay and without a red copper-cent, Green was crying as he appeared in the front office of The Louisiana Weekly Friday afternoon, hungry and penniless.

He gave this account of what happened to him to Weekly reporters who later befriended him:

"Last Monday morning about six o'clock Donald Rhone, the young overseer on the Murphy Plantation, came to my home on his farm. No one lives there but my wife and I. She is pregnant. I was getting up when I heard the noise of Mr. Rhone's car out in front of my house. He yelled for me to come out and I told him to wait a minute. He ran up on the porch and almost tore the door down, demanding that I come out to go to work right then. I said all right and came out putting on my clothes.

"I got in the back seat and he was in front. He took me to the place where we work. Just as he stopped and I started to get out, he opened the door and struck me with a monkey wrench. Then he collared and kicked me, knocking me down. He called me a "g—d—b—s—o—b". I didn't even raise my hand. I was shocked because I didn't know what he was mad about.

"About that time there was a Creole coming up the road and the boss next to Mr. Donnie came on the scene. Mr. Donnie told the other boss to take me to a doctor, but I told him I wanted to go to the hospital in New Orleans. He didn't say anything and so I slipped back to my house and left. I hoboed all the way from Jeanerette to New Orleans and got here about three o'clock Monday evening. It was about seven before I saw a doctor. He examined me and made X-rays. There were minor bruises, but no broken bones.

"I didn't have any place to stay here and I didn't know anyone. So I started wandering around the street. I didn't even have a penny. I found a bar room and the owner of the place let me sit in it all night and gave me some food. Various people around there gave me a dime or fifteen cents. I haven't slept in four nights."

When reporters of The Weekly heard this story, they started action.

A call was placed to the Louisiana Employment office where Revius O. Ortique, Jr., secured Green a temporary job at a restaurant at 716 Iberville about an hour after he was taken to the employment office. Arrangements were made for him to have a hot meal before he started to work and another before he left work that night.

Several calls were placed to charitable agencies, but to no avail. A call to Frank Rodgers of the Gladstone Hotel was good for one night of free lodging.

Ernest J. Wright, director of the Peoples Defense League volunteered funds to pay Green's room rent at the Gladstone for a week and issued a statement in which the PDL went on record as protesting in Green's behalf and ordered an investigation.

Green related how he had worked on the sugar and rice farm at six dollars per day, seven days a week, with no time off to buy groceries at the community store.

He said that he and other Negro families on the plantation had been subjected to such hardships as "working from can't to can't"—with no time off.

He meant that he was forced to leave home during the darkened early morning hours and the late evening hours. He said that his wife picked up the groceries in dribbles during the week.

He further stated that Negroes were forced to work all day Sunday and were kept from going to any church. Several times they had asked to be allowed to attend a nearby church, but they were told that there was no time for church.

Green claimed that Negroes are often tricked into conditions as his. He says that they are enticed to getting into debt and can never get out. He said that he owed his employer about $100.

Efforts were being made this week to contact his employers for their side of the sordid, inhuman story told by Green.

Migrant Farm Labor

The exhaustive survey of social, economic, health and educational conditions of farm migrants made by the President's Committee on Migratory Labor is a shocking expose of official neglect and private exploitation—a story about men and women living in insanitary "camps" without community ties and "usually beyond the reach of local school, health and welfare authorities." There are at least a million of these migrants, about half of whom are domestic workers. The other half is made up of approximately 100,000 Mexicans legally under contract, 400,000 so-called Mexican wetbacks who have illegally entered the country by slipping across the land border or wading or swimming across the Rio Grande, and a small number of British West Indians and Puerto Ricans. These migratory workers supply only 3 to 4 percent of the man-days of work used to produce the Nation's farm output. The great majority are employed on some 125,000 large farms producing cotton, fruits, vegetables and sugar beets. Nevertheless, they make important contributions to farm output and are in great demand at critical periods of crop production.

Since more farm labor will be needed this year to replace men entering the military services and to harvest an extended acreage, pressure for increased importation of foreign labor, chiefly Mexican, is mounting. However, the commission concludes that no special measures should be taken to increase the number of alien contract laborers beyond the number admitted last year and that legalization for employment purposes of aliens illegally in the United States should be discontinued. "We are convinced," it declares, "that by better recruitment and placement of domestic labor, we would have eliminated most, if not all, of the occasion for the certifications of labor shortage during the years 1947 to 1950."

In that connection the report sharply criticizes the practice of legalizing the status of wetbacks and giving them employment in preference to workers who have not violated our immigration laws. It charges, too, that field officers of the Immigration Service have been under pressure from Washington to "go easy on deportations until crops have been harvested." It further implies that if the Farm Placement Division of the United States Employment Service had done a more effective recruitment and placement job at home, there would not have been a labor shortage requiring the importation of large numbers of aliens. As a matter of fact, the commission received evidence that last year some American workers were actually dismissed to make way for contract Mexican labor.

Numerous recommendations are made by the commission designed to raise the living standards of migrant farm labor, such as minimum wage legislation, establishment of Federal and State minimum housing standards, grants to the States to conduct health programs among migratory workers and vigorous enforcement of child labor laws. These recommendations, which cover both alien and domestic migrants, provide evidence, if any were required, of shameful neglect of this group.

The problem growing out of our dependence on alien labor is only one aspect of the general problem of migratory labor, but it is an important one. For cheap foreign labor creates the very scarcities that lead to an influx of aliens willing to work for wages that are indecently low according to American standards. We agree with the commission that our efforts in future should be directed toward increasing the number of our own farm workers and eliminating dependence on foreign labor.

President's Board Reports

Shocking, Shameful Conditions Found Among Farm Migrants

By John W. Ball
Post Reporter

A shameful story of official ill-treatment and neglect of an estimated one million migratory farm laborers was related to President Truman yesterday by his Commission on Migratory Labor.

The commission's report covers the transient farm labor problem in all parts of the country. Its greatest emphasis is on the annual invasion, both legally and illegally, of Mexican workers, into the Southwest. But it also pays attention to the groups of native-born laborers who work each year in the commercial truck farms of Southern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, and in the orchards of Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

The greater attention given the yearly Mexican influx is due to its longer existence, the illegality involved in the entry of so many Mexican immigrants, the greater numbers involved, and the state of virtual peonage in which those illegally imported are often forced to exist. But the situation on the Atlantic gets its share of notice.

"In the past two decades," the report states, "there has developed another clearly migratory group made up almost exclusively of Negroes who have their home base in Florida.

Former Sharecroppers

"Many of these are former sharecroppers or their descendants from other southern States. They spend the winter in Florida and in the spring and summer follow a northward course along the Atlantic Shore reaching through the Carolinas, Virginia, New Jersey, New York and even into Maine.

"These workers are now being described as professional migrants. Yet there is evidence that they, too, will settle down when the environment is favorable."

The report treats of many complaints raised by observers of the situation on the Eastern Seaboard:

1. The labor contracting system, which "has become entrenched in many major areas." "This system," the report says, "is essentially a means by which the employer of migrants avoids the responsibilities of obtaining and managing his labor.

"In the typical arrangement, the labor contractor makes his profit out of the workers' wages. . . . He may provide certain services, such as transportation, food, shelter, for which the workers must pay in whatever amount the contractor may decide to assess." A labor contractor in New Jersey the board said, explained how he charged for board as follows: "If I pay them good, I charge them good."

Sweatshop Evils

The commission pays its respects to this system with these bitter words:

1. "For the migratory farm worker, the contractor system has all of the evils of the sweatshop system which long ago disappeared from American industry."

2. Child labor, which, the report points out, "has all but disappeared from American industry. Only in agriculture does it remain a serious problem.

The report deals particularly with the employment of children in peas, snap beans and similar crops in which southern Virginia and the Eastern Shore counties of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia abound. In such areas, it states, children, "some as young as five and six years, work along with adult members of their families at 'stoop' labor. Poverty forces these children to work. They also work because their parents have no other place to put them during their own working hours.

["Stoop" labor, referred to in the report, means just that—work such as picking beans, that requires stooping over for hours at a time.]

These children, the report continues, "are among those with lowest educational attainments found anywhere in the United States.

"Nor are they likely to get educational opportunities so long as they work during school hours, and move from place to place with their parents in search of employment. They suffer also from discrimination and social stigma which exclude them from full participation in the community."

Wetback Invasion

As it should, however, the chief emphasis in the report deals with the "Wetback Invasion"—the illegal alien labor in American agriculture. At least 400,000 of the Nation's migratory farm labor force of a million are "wetbacks."

(The term "wetback" somes from the habit of such workers of entering this country by swimming or wading across the Rio Grande River out of sight of immigration officers.)

The report points out prominently that only "a small proportion of the Nation's migratory labor force is employed on small farms and family farms." It states that migratory labor is employed by only 2 percent of the farmers.

The reporta states that many employers of Mexican labor near the border "implied they had an inherent right to get Mexican labor."

The report goes into details on recruiting in Mexican towns below the border. "His urgent need of food and money" it states "makes the Mexican an easy mark for the smuggler, the labor contractor, or the agent of the farm employer." Once across the border, his exploitation begins in earnest.

"Wetbacks who are without funds to pay the smuggler for bringing them in, or to pay the trucker-contractor who furnishes transportation from the boundary to the farm, are frequently 'sold' from one exploiter to the next," the report says.

Virtual Bondage

Once established on farms, the fact that the worker has entered illegally and is liable to deportation, makes him subject to abuse amounting at times to bondage.

"He is told that if he leaves the farm, he will be reported to the Immigration Service, or that, equally unfortunate to him, the Immigration Service will surely find him if he ventures into town or out onto the roads.

"To assure that he will stay until his services are no longer needed, his pay, or some portion thereof, frequently is held back. Sometimes he is deliberately kept indebted to the farmers' store or commissary until the end of the season, at which time he may be given enough to buy food and

clothing and encouraged to return the following season.

"When the work is done, neither the farmer nor the community wants the wetbacks around. The number of apprehensions and deportations tends to rise very rapidly at the close of the seasonal work period."

Often small sums, called "deposits" are withheld from the wetback's pay when the season is over and he returns to Mexico, in order to assure his return the next year.

Becaue of his illegal position, the wetback also is forced to work at nearly starvation wages, giving the employer a marked competitive advantages over other farmers.

Pay for choping cotton, for instance, ranged from $2.25 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley—where wetbacks are most numerous—to $5.25 a day in other sections of Texas. The pay graduated upwards as the distance from the border increased.

When the commission held hearings in Texas last August, it discovered wages for picking cotton in the Lower Rio Grande Valley were as low as 50 cents per hundredweight. The State-wide average for Texas was $2.45.

"Wages for common hand labor in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, according to the testimony, were as low as 15 to 25 cents an hour," the report states. To the North and the west through El Paso Valley, we found a marked tendency for wages for similar work to rise."

The commission found that the Immigration and Naturalization Service was susceptible to political pressure to go easy on deportations until crops were harvested," the report states.

Program Recommended

The commission recommends the following "coordinated public program":

1. That a Federal Commission on Migratory Farm Labor be appointed by the President, with three public members, plus members from the Agriculture, Labor and State Departments, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Federal Security Agency. It also recommends similar committees in the States.

2. That in meeting the demands for farm labor during the present emergency, first reliance be placed on a more effective use of domestic labor. In bringing in labor, first preference should be given to United States citizens from Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

3. That responsibility for certifying the existence of domestic labor shortages be separated from the responsibility for importation of foreign workers. The committee recommends that the United States Employment Service carry out the former and the Immigration Service the latter task.

4. That legislation be enacted an once (1) making it unlawful to employ aliens who have entered the country illegally, (2) to permit Immigration authorities to enter farms to search for such illegal aliens, and (3) fixing stiff penalties for harboring, concealing or transporting aliens.

5. That laws be enacted to provide for licensing labor recruiting agents and to forbid unlicensed contractors from interstate operation. The report also urges similar licensing laws in the various States.

6. That agricultural workers be given the right to organize, by amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act.

7. That minimum wage and unemployment compensation be extended to migratory farm workers.

8. That Government assistance in recruiting migratory workers be refused States where minimum housing standards for them do not exist.

9. That the Social Security and Public Health Service Acts be amended to provide matching grants to States for (1) general assistance, including medical care, and (2) health programs and clinics for migratory labor.

10. That the 1949 Child Labor amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act be vigorously enforced, and that it be amended to restrict employment of children under 14 from farm work outside of school hours.

11. That an adequate educational program for migratory workers and their children be set up.

Migratory Labor In Lower Valley

President Truman's Migratory Labor Commission reports that workers from Mexico are not needed in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Valley farmers reply that they will have to reduce production greatly if this labor supply is cut off.

There have been some abuses of migratory labor, no doubt. But there has been a lot of loose thinking and talking, plus some stealthy pressure from selfishly interested groups, that has confused the issue. In the present instance the valley farmers have the bulk of the evidence on their side.

A unique labor situation exists in the Lower Valley. Much labor is needed on its cotton farms, its truck gardens and citrus orchards. There is a highly seasonal demand. There is a ready supply on the opposite side of the river. There is small supply within several hundred miles of the Lower Valley on this side.

Those who favor seasonal migration from Mexico are the valley growers and the migrant laborers themselves. The latter make much higher wages in this country than in Mexico. Those who oppose the seasonal migration are the employers of agricultural labor in Mexico who do not want wages boosted by competition, and the labor of this country. They do not want wages in the valley held down. Doing much talking and writing against this migrant labor, also, is an army of well-intentioned people who do not understand the situation thoroughly.

It seems that the issue could be solved by (1) co-operation by the valley growers in eliminating all unfair practices and (2) stricter federal regulation of entry into this country to eliminate the "wetback," but with realistic attitude toward the practical needs of the valley and the welfare of the migrant laborers.

If both migrant workers and the employers think that they are benefited, what's wrong with the situation?

Swing Northward—

Migratory Workers Leaving South Alabama Potato Fields

MOBILE, ALA., June 12 —(AP) —Migratory harvest hands who helped gather southwest Alabama's near-record potato crop were preparing Tuesday to pull up stakes.

For the next two weeks they'll be striking out in trucks and old-model buses on the swing northward along the Eastern Seaboard for a new harvest.

Some of them are going to Maryland and Virginia to harvest snap beans, cucumbers and tomatoes—and dig more potatoes.

Gradually they'll work their way north as the crops mature. Later on this fall, when the cotton crop comes in and the weather begins to get chilly, they'll head back down south.

Eventually they'll wind up back in Florida for the citrus harvest.

The crews are part of a large army of migratory farm workers who make their living moving from one harvest to another, helping the nation's farmers gather their crops.

Their activities are coordinated by the U. S. Employment Service and the various field offices of State Employment Services.

Before the farm placement service was set up in the 1930s the matter of hiring farm laborers was a confusing hit and miss proposition. Now, it's well organized and a big business for the employment service offices.

William P. Stainback, manager of the Mobile Office of the Alabama State Employment Service, said the crew leader is the key man in the farm placement program.

The leader lines up the crew, contracts with the farmers and growers and transports the crews from place to place. The employment service offices bring the two together. In many states regular camps are set up.

The harvest hands are paid on a piece work basis. The more experienced and more proficient he becomes the better the pay.

In nearby Baldwin County, potato growers paid the harvest hands six cents a sack. The average hand made $4 to $6 a day but some earned as much as $13 a day.

The farm laborers keep at the work year after year. Often the entire family goes along.

As one harvest hand expressed it, "We don't make a lot of money, but we get to see a lot of the country."